

Bolingbroke, Henry St. John, 1678-1751

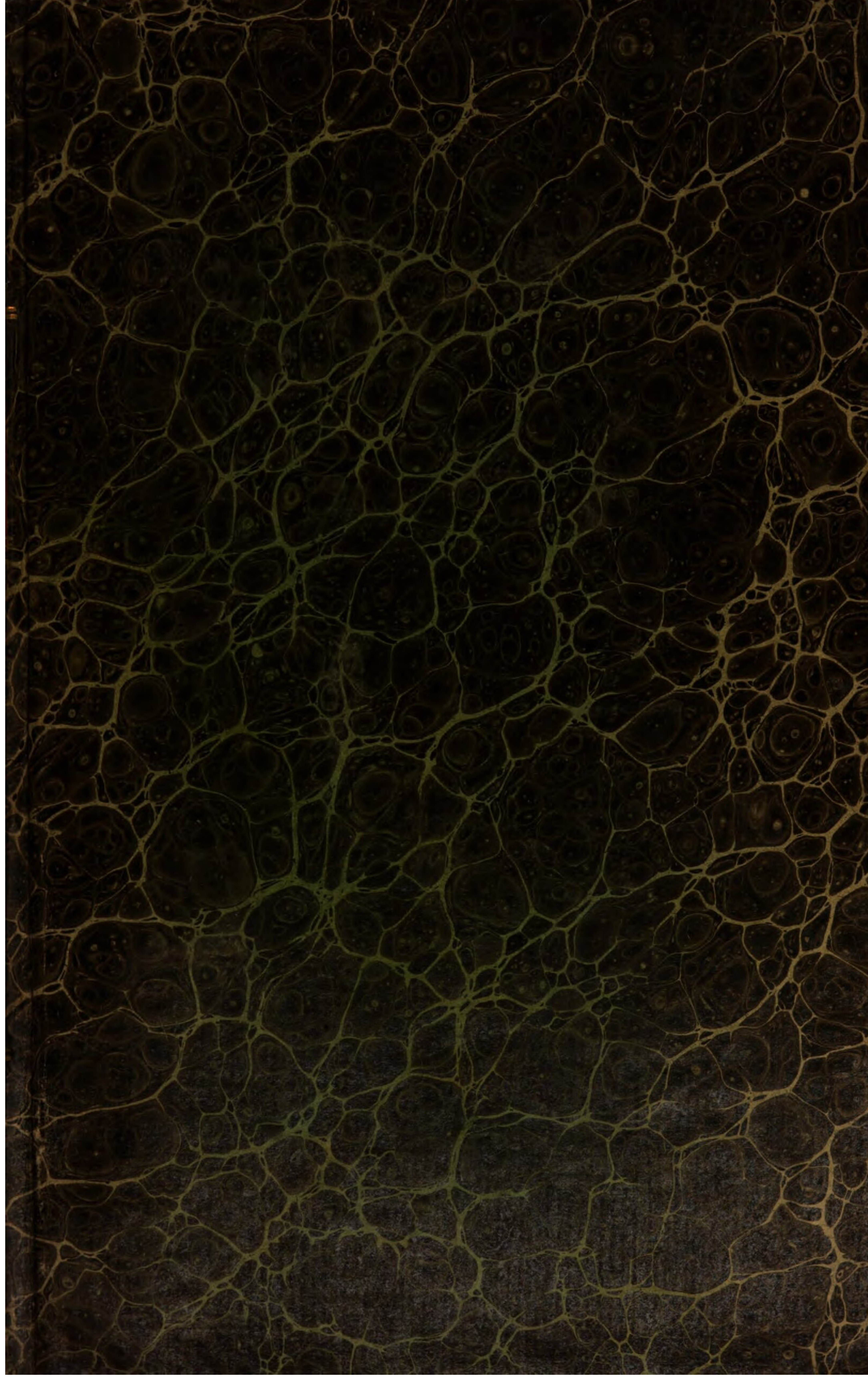
Letters and Correspondence, public and private of the Right Honourable
Henry St. John, lord visc. Bolingbroke, during the time he was Secretary
of State to Queen Anne

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LETTERS
AND
CORRESPONDENCE,
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE,
OF
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE HENRY ST. JOHN,
LORD VISC. BOLINGBROKE;

DURING THE TIME HE WAS
SECRETARY OF STATE

TO
QUEEN ANNE;

WITH
STATE PAPERS, EXPLANATORY NOTES, AND A
TRANSLATION OF THE FOREIGN LETTERS, &c.

By GILBERT PARKE, WADH. COLL. OXON.
CHAPLAIN TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
THE PRINCE OF WALES.

VOL. III.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED FOR G. G. AND J. ROBINSON, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1798.

LETTERS

AND

CORRESPONDENCE

PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

OF

THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORDS OF THE

LORDS HIGH CHANCERY

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LETTERS

AND

CORRESPONDENCE, &c.

To the Earl of Dartmouth.

MY LORD,

Fontainebleau, August 21st, N.S. 1712.

I LEFT Calais on Monday, according to what I writ to your Lordship from that place, and proceeded on my journey to Paris, where I arrived about six o'clock Wednesday, in the evening. On the road, I took all possible precaution to conceal my name, and to avoid all sort of ceremony, by stopping to refresh myself as little as possible; and, when I did stop, by choosing to do it out of the great towns. My care was, however, in great measure, fruitless; and they did their utmost, in the places through which I passed, to show their respect to the Queen; so that I arrived at least as much fatigued with compliments as tired with my journey.

VOL. III.

B

Soon

Soon after I got out of my chaise, a gentleman came to me from Madame de Croissi *, brought her coach, invited me to supper, and told me, that Monsieur de Torcy was coming post from Fontainebleau, to meet me. In effect, I had not been long at the Hôtel de Croissi before he arrived. There was no resisting his importunity, as well as his mother's, and I was forced to continue with them during my stay at Paris. In these two days I lost no time, but pursued her Majesty's instructions † with all the application

* The mother of the Marquis de Torcy, and widow of the brother of the great Colbert.

† “ Instructions for our right trusty and well-beloved Cousin and Counsellor Henry Viscount Bolingbroke, whom we have appointed to go to the Court of France.

“ ANNE R. “ You are immediately to repair to the Court of France, and, being arrived there, to demand an audience of his Most Christian Majesty. You are to present to this Prince our letter, which is herewith delivered to you, and to acquaint him, that we observe with great concern, that new difficulties have arisen, and new delays have been created, in the negotiation, which we thought on the point of being concluded; that we have sent you over fully instructed in all our intentions, and fully authorised to treat and settle every thing necessary to remove the obstructions which hinder the general suspension of arms from taking place; that you are likewise empowered to concert with his Ministers the most proper means of preventing such other differences as can be now foreseen, and of setting the treaty of peace in such a course as may bring it to a happy and speedy conclusion. You are to add the assurances of our earnest desire to see a perfect good

plication I am master of; and I humbly hope that I have been so happy as to answer the purposes for which she sent me hither.

We

good understanding between the two nations restored, and to use all other terms of civility which may be proper, in our name.

“ When you proceed to treat with the Ministers at this Court, you will begin by acquainting them, that we have directed and empowered you to conclude and execute the convention for a general suspension of arms, by sea and land, between us and France and Spain. And we do hereby authorise you accordingly to agree to the same for two, for three, or four months, or to continue it till the conclusion of the peace. But, whereas we have not yet received satisfaction in those demands which we have thought fit to make in the behalf of the Duke of Savoy, and whereas the settlement of the term for the suspension of arms must, in great measure, be governed by the time which the complete execution of the article for preventing the union of the two monarchies of France and Spain will require, you are, therefore, before you sign the convention aforesaid, to expect positive assurances that the terms which we demand of France and Spain shall be made good to his Royal Highness; and, as far forth as possible, to adjust and determine the forms of the several renunciations and settlements.

“ As to the barrier which his Royal Highness demands, and judges necessary for his security, on the side of France, you are not required to insist to have those articles immediately granted which have been hitherto peremptorily refused by his Most Christian Majesty; nor, on the other hand, are you to agree to any thing which may foreclose the Duke of Savoy from negotiating for himself: this point we choose to leave to be settled between the two powers concerned. But you will not fail to recommend to the French Ministers, to hasten the conclusion of it, insinuating to them, that though you can agree to the suspension of arms, without waiting to have this barrier entirely settled, yet that you do not imagine there will be any possibility of prevailing on us to sign the peace with France and Spain, unless full satisfaction be given to his Royal Highness, and unless we can take him along with us in the doing thereof. There seems to be little or no differ-

We began with the interests of the Duke of Savoy, from whence the principal obstacle to

ence between what has been proposed from hence and what is agreed to on the part of France, concerning the right to be established in the Duke of Savoy and his children, immediately after Philip and his children, to the succession to the crown of Spain and the West Indies. You are, therefore, to have this article again explained, and to bring it as near as possible to the terms made use of in the memorial drawn by the Count de Maffei upon this subject.

“ Concerning the cession of Sicily, you are to insist that it be made in the manner demanded by us; and that this act, as well as those necessary on the precedent head, be finished at the same time as the renunciation and settlements of the crown of France and Spain shall be made.

“ You are to refuse to consent to defer the actual surrender of this island to his Royal Highness till the general peace; but you are at liberty to agree that he shall not take possession thereof until his and our peace be made with France and Spain: in other respects, you will bring this article likewise as near as possible to the terms made use of by the Count de Maffei in his memorial.

“ It seems too indifferent to either side whether a formal suspension of arms be agreed to between France and Savoy or not, to have this matter much insisted on; and there may be some reasons why in prudence the Duke of Savoy's accommodation should be yet a while concealed. You will, therefore, have the less regard to this point; and treat for his Royal Highness upon the supposition and condition of his coming into the peace when we shall do so. And whereas it has been surmised that his Royal Highness might think of exchanging Sicily for some other territories contiguous to his own, which would by no means be agreeable to our designs, or to the interests of our kingdoms; you may, therefore, consent to an article to prevent the exchange or alienation of this kingdom from the House of Savoy.

“ As to the second point, which you are to adjust as far forth as is possible, we have directed what has been prepared by the Civilians upon this subject to be put into your hands, of which you will make the best use you are able; and you will endeavour to agree the several forms in such a manner, and to concert such measures for the dispatch of them, that
when.

to the conclusion of the suspension of arms by sea and land arose ; and, after some contestation,

when the persons whom we shall think fit to appoint to be witnesses of these renunciations and settlements shall arrive in France and Spain, there may be as little room as possible left for dispute or delay.

“ The Most Christian King being very earnest to obtain some advantageous conditions for the late Elector of Bavaria, you are to inform the French Ministers that we shall readily agree to have this Prince restored to all which he enjoyed in the empire, except his rank of first Elector, and except the Upper Palatinate, both of which are to remain and belong to the Elector Palatine. We think this a sufficient concession on our part in favour of the Prince above-mentioned ; who being in possession of Namur, Luxemburg, Charleroy, and Nieuport, use may be made thereof in the general treaty of peace ; and he may have an opportunity there, in exchange for these places and countries, to obtain something further for himself.

“ You may, however, if you shall find it for our service, consent on our part that he have the kingdom of Sardinia yielded to him ; for the obtaining thereof the possessions just now mentioned seem to be an adequate security.

“ In treating of the several matters entrusted to your management, you are to have especial care to avoid entangling us in any new engagements ; and for that purpose you are to say, and to repeat, that we shall willingly enter into the common guaranty for supporting that settlement of Europe which shall be established by the general peace, but that we will not be tied down to any stipulation which may oblige us to make war, and especially with our old allies, in order to procure this settlement. It is advantage enough to France that the conduct of our allies has made it reasonable, just, and even necessary, for us to withdraw ourselves out of the present war.

“ After you shall have received sufficient satisfaction in all points before-mentioned, you may proceed to speak of such articles as relate particularly to the interests of Great Britain, and endeavour to have such of them as there may appear to be any doubt concerning, explained in the most advantageous manner.

“ You will likewise do your best to discover, upon the
B 3 several

testation, have adjusted them in this manner :

The right of this Prince, and of his family, to the Crown of Spain and the Indies, after Philip and his descendants, is to be substituted in the same acts, and at the same time, as the several renunciations and settlements are made, declared, and confirmed,

several parts of the general plan of peace, what the real ultimatum of France may be. And upon this head you are to say, that, when we shall conclude our treaty, it may be expedient to fix a time for the allies to come in; during which our good offices shall be employed to reconcile the disputes which may arise, and to render the peace general; but we shall not do any thing like imposing the scheme offered by France upon our allies, or debarring them from the liberty of endeavouring to obtain still better terms for themselves.

“ When you shall have concluded the convention for the suspension of arms, you may dispatch to our trusty and well-beloved Sir John Jennings, Knight, our Admiral and Commander-in-chief of our fleet in the Mediterranean; to our trusty and well-beloved William Chetwynd, Esq. our Envoy-extraordinary to the republic of Genoa; and to the Commander-in-chief of our troops in Catalonia, our orders which are herewith put into your hands: and at the same time you are to concert with the Ministers of France, not only the safe retreat of the Emperor's forces out of Catalonia, if his Imperial Majesty shall think fit to withdraw them, but also the march of the Portuguese troops, which are now serving there, back to their own country.

“ We have likewise ordered fifty passes, signed by us, in blank, to be put into your hands, which you will exchange against the like number, as soon as the suspension shall be agreed; and you may acquaint the French Ministers that more will be sent from hence by every opportunity.

“ Given at our Court at Windsor Castle, the 31st day of July, 1712, in the eleventh year of our reign.

“ A. R.”

which

which are necessary to accomplish the article for preventing the union of the two monarchies.

Monsieur de Torcy endeavoured to leave this point more loose, and either to defer securing the succession of the House of Savoy, or, at least, not to establish it in the same acts as are to pass on the other occasion; but as I judged this to be the safest and most authentic manner, I insisted, and he yielded.

On the cession of Sicily, he would have adhered to the terms of his last dispatch; and urged the absurdity of giving this kingdom away, till they were sure of making peace with Savoy. It was not difficult to show that he had already departed from this argument, and that there could be no reasonable objection to Philip's making a cession of Sicily to the Duke of Savoy, at the same time as he consented to secure to him the succession of Spain and the Indies; that if peace did not follow, every thing which had been done would of course be void; and that if it did follow, the consideration for which this island was yielded would be obtained. This point being over, there was

little dispute about the time when his Royal Highness shall be put into the actual possession of this kingdom:—we have settled it to be on the ratification of a general peace between the Queen, France, Spain, and Savoy.

The Count de Maffei may not, perhaps, be satisfied with this agreement; and I remember, in his memorial, he desired his master might be at liberty at any time to take possession; but the Duke of Savoy ought to look upon it as a very good bargain, and to be contented to have the advantages which are to accrue to him, put into his hands, when those which her Majesty stipulated for herself are put into her's.

I wish I could have prevailed on the head of the barrier * as far as I did on the other two; but it was impossible, at least it was so for me. Monsieur de Torcy represented that Exilles, Fenestrelles, and the Valley of Pragelas, besides the restitution of all which France is in possession of, was the utmost which the King would ever consent, or had ever consented, to give; that when the

* For Savoy.

Ministers of Savoy made, in Holland, the same ulterior demands which they now make, the Pensionary laughed at them, and even at that time did not push him to comply with them; that, under pretence of security, his Royal Highness really sought an aggrandizement at the expence of France, and out of the ancient domain of this Crown; that though a King of France was a more powerful Prince than a Duke of Savoy, yet that the latter, backed by a confederacy, which is the only case wherein he will attempt any thing, is a dreadful enemy to the former; that they have here a minority to expect, and therefore ought to be the more careful not to leave the frontiers of their kingdom exposed; in short, that Sicily was an ample recompence to his Royal Highness for all the services he has done the Queen, and that if her Majesty was easy, he was sure the Duke of Savoy would submit; he concluded by repeating, very earnestly, that the King never would grant him a larger barrier, and that his Majesty insisted to put this negative now, since he was resolved to do it at last, lest the Duke should, by continuing in hopes, spin out the treaty and
delay

delay concluding the peace, for which reason he likewise insisted that the Queen should concur in this negative.

It is needless to lengthen my dispatch, by telling your Lordship, what answers I made to these representations. I replied in the best manner I was able ; and ended, as I am instructed, by letting the minister know, that the Queen would consent to nothing which should foreclose his Royal Highness from obtaining what, for ought she knew, might be necessary ; that this point must therefore not be now looked upon as determined, but must be left open for the ministers of Savoy to debate ; that I did not understand her Majesty's intentions to be to enlarge the Duke of Savoy's dominions out of those of France, but that I was sure she would not sign a peace, unless this Prince's security was really and effectually provided for, which France having promised in general terms to all the allies, could not refuse, in any particular, to the Duke of Savoy.

The next head to which we proceeded, was that of the renunciations and settlements necessary to prevent the union of the two crowns, and in treating of this I cannot say
that

that I met with any difficulty. I gave no hopes that any expedient would be accepted to sign the peace, before this article was entirely accomplished, though Monsieur de Torcy proposed, that the peace should not be delayed for it, but the ratifications should. He has since consulted Monsieur Bergheyck *, and they are of opinion, that a month, or at most six weeks' time will suffice to pass all the forms, so that I am desired to recommend the dispatch of my Lord Lexington †, or who ever else the Queen shall think fit to send into Spain; and I crave leave to say, that it would be extremely out of course, if in France and Spain they should be ready to finish this important article, and we should on our parts not be ready to witness the execution of it, especially when we push the concluding of the peace, and refuse to sign until all these forms are perfected.

The draught of Philip's act of renunciation, and the minutes taken by Monsieur de

* Count de Bergheyck, Plenipotentiary of Spain.

† Appointed Ambassador-extraordinary to the Court of Madrid, to be present at the cortes held to receive the renunciation of Philip.

Torcy

Torcy and me *, both which I transmit to your Lordship, will, I suppose, be a sufficient ground-work of instructions to those whom her Majesty shall choose to send hither and to Madrid.

The

* *Minutes taken by Lord Bolingbroke and Monsieur de Torcy.*

“ M E M O I R E.

“ *Pour Monsieur le Duc de SAVOYE.*

“ La substitution du Duc de Savoye & de sa famille à la couronne d’Espagne & des Indes, sera faite dans le tems que l’article qui regarde la réunion des deux monarchies recevra son accomplissement: cette substitution sera insérée dans tous les actes de renonciation, tant du Roi d’Espagne que de Monsieur le Duc de Berry & de Monsieur le Duc d’Orléans. Elle sera reconnue de sa Majesté Très Chrétienne comme aussi des cortes d’Espagne. Le tout selon le projet contenu dans la lettre du Vicomte de Bolingbroke au Marquis de Torcy, du 17^{me} Juillet, V.S.

“ La Sicile sera cédée au Duc de Savoye dans le tems que la susdite substitution sera faite. Monsieur de Lexington, ou tel ministre que la Reine enverra en Espagne, étant arrivé à Madrid, le Roi d’Espagne signera un article secret, par lequel il promettra de céder la Sicile à Monsieur le Duc de Savoye, par la paix ou générale ou particulière, & de lui laisser la possession de ce royaume après l’échange des ratifications. Son Altesse Royale pourra prendre la possession actuelle de cette île dès que les ratifications ou de la paix générale, ou de la paix particulière entre la Grande Bretagne, la France, l’Espagne, & la Savoye, seront faites & échangées. Et la Reine est prête à convenir avec sa Majesté Très Chrétienne un article (1) pour empêcher que son Altesse Royale ne puisse ni échanger ni aliéner la dite île, sous quelque cause ou prétexte que ce soit. On suivra tant à l’égard de la cession de Sicile que de la substitution de son Altesse Royale la lettre ci-dessus rappelée du Vicomte de Bolingbroke au Marquis de Torcy, du 17^{me} Juillet, dans tous les points qui ne reçoivent pas du changement par ce mémoire.

“ Quant à la barrière de son Altesse Royale, on peut poser pour principe que la Reine ne souhaite pas son aggrandisse-

(1) Le Roi convient de passer cet article.

The last point, and that on which we had the warmest debates, was concerning the Elector of Bavaria: as soon as I arrived at Paris, I heard that he was come to Chaillot, in the neighbourhood, and Monsieur de Torcy, either was, or affected to be, under some uneasiness at the reproaches which this Prince would, he said, with reason give them, unless they provided better for him, than the Queen had hitherto seemed inclined to allow. He turned this matter several ways,

ment du côté de la France, & qu'elle ne demande que la sûreté de ce Prince; laquelle sûreté a été déjà promise par sa Majesté Très Chrétienne, à tous les alliés de sa Majesté Britannique. Les ministres de France prétendent que cette sûreté se trouve dans les offres que le Roi a fait à son Altesse Royale de lui céder Exilles, Fénestrelles, & la Vallée de Pragelas. Ceux du Duc de Savoye insistent, au contraire, sur plusieurs autres points, comme indispensablement nécessaire à cette sûreté. La Reine, qui ne peut pas prendre sur elle la décision de cette affaire, desire que les raisons de son Altesse Royale soient examinées, & qu'il en soit décidé avec ceux de sa Majesté Très Chrétienne à Utrecht.

“ Sur l'explication de l'article pour empêcher la réunion des deux monarchies.

“ On suivra ce qui est contenu dans les articles proposés par sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne pour une suspension d'armes, le 6me Juin, V.S. & accepté par sa Majesté le Roi Très Chrétienne dans les réponses qu'il a données le 22me du même mois, N.S. La Reine dépêchera sans perte de tems, le ministre qu'elle a dessein d'envoyer en Espagne, & toutes les susdites rénonciations seront faites & acceptées par sa Majesté Très Chrétienne, dans l'espace de six semaines, ou plutôt s'il est possible. Cet article souffrira d'autant moins de difficulté que le Roi l'a déjà accordé, & que si la paix générale
ou

ways, and made variety of propositions, which it was plain enough were not extempore, though he appeared desirous I should look upon them as sudden thoughts, which occurred to him in treating; at last he rested on this, that the Queen should engage to procure for the Elector, the duchy and electorate of Bavaria, exclusive of the Upper Palatinate and the rank in the Electoral College, which I had from the first peremptorily rejected; and that she should farther promise to maintain him in the possession of the duchies and towns of Luxem-

ou particulière ne s'ensuit point, tous ces actes doivent être nuls.

“ *Sur les intérêts de l'ELECTEUR de BAVIERE.*

“ La Reine estime qu'il est juste que l'Electeur de Bavière soit rétabli dans la possession du duché & electorate de Bavière, à l'exception toutefois du Haut Palatinat, qui demeurera & appartiendra avec le dignité & le rang de premier Electeur à l'Electeur Palatin, & à son défaut au Prince Charles de Neubourg son frère, de sorte que le dit Electeur de Bavière, ne pourra espérer de parvenir qu'après la mort de l'Electeur Palatin, & de son frère seulement.

“ La Reine ne juge pas qu'il soit nécessaire qu'elle s'engage d'employer actuellement ses offices pour obtenir quelque chose de plus pour l'Electeur de Bavière, puisque les ministres de France se serviront de la possession des pays & places dont ce Prince jouit présentement dans les Pays-Bas, pour lui procurer la Sardagne. Mais sa Majesté ne s'y opposera en aucune manière. C'est tout ce qu'on peut attendre d'elle, car il faut tomber d'accord qu'il seroit peu convenable à l'honneur & aux intérêts de la Reine de prendre de nouveaux engagements avec un Prince qui est à présent son ennemi, pendant qu'elle ne peut pas remplir tous ceux qu'elle a pris avec ses alliés.”

“ A Fontainbleau, le 21me d'Août, 1712.”

bourg

bourg and Namur, and in the possession of Charleroi and Nieuport, until such an equivalent for these countries and places was given him as he should be satisfied with ; this proposition I positively refused to assent to, and told Monsieur de Torcy very plainly, that leaving these towns and places in the Elector's possession, till he had such an equivalent as he should be satisfied with, was really giving them absolutely to him, which I knew her Majesty neither could nor would admit; farther, that her Majesty would enter into no engagement to procure any thing for the Elector, or even to use her offices in his behalf; that the towns and places which this Prince is in possession of, would very probably be an inducement to the allies to give him something in lieu of them; that her Majesty would not oppose his having Sardinia, which equivalent had been proposed first from hence. This I let him know was the sum of all he was to expect from the Queen, and your Lordship will find the minutes drawn accordingly.

Having on precedent occasions, as well as this, perceived that Monsieur de Torcy affected to him every expression, in such manner

manner as to engage the Queen, jointly with the King his Master, I thought proper very explicitly and in the strongest terms I could use, to say, that the Queen would enter readily into the common guaranty for supporting that settlement of Europe, which should, by the peace, be made; but that she would on no account whatever be concerned in any stipulation to procure this settlement; that it would be advantage sufficient for France, if the conduct of her Majesty's allies, made it just and necessary for her to withdraw herself out of the war before them, and that afterwards her good offices should be employed as became the common friend of all parties.

I take occasion frequently to repeat this to the French ministers, and I believe they will look upon it as the rule which her Majesty has laid down, and which they shall not be able to prevail on her to depart from.

On Saturday, in the evening, I came to Fontainebleau, where an apartment was provided for me, and my reception was particularly civil. On Sunday, at nine in the morning, I had audience of the King, to whom I presented her Majesty's letter. He
received

received me in a very gracious manner, he talked a considerable time with me, and the substance of what he said, as near as I can remember, for his speech was extremely quick, was, that he had ever had the highest esteem for the Queen; that she had proceeded in such a manner as to turn that esteem into the sincerest friendship; that he hoped she was satisfied he had done every thing on his part, which might facilitate the peace that he was pleased to find we were so near concluding; that there were some who had used all endeavours to obstruct it, but that, God be praised! they would not be long able to do so, that God would hinder them from giving the law which they pretended to; that the success of his arms * should make no alteration in him, and that he would make good all he had offered.

Fontainbleau, August 22d, N.S. 1712.

AFTER I had had my audience yesterday of the King, I returned with Monsieur de Torcy to review the minutes we had taken, and the draught of the convention for the

* Upon the separation of the British forces from those of the allies, the French General defeated the Earl of Albemarle, retook Douay, &c.

suspension of arms, which we signed in the evening. Your Lordship will observe that it is dated on Friday last, at which time the first *brouillon* was prepared; and I thought that every day which the commencement of it was put backward, was some degree of advantage to us; the term is of four months, which Monsieur de Torcy desired, as more likely to have its effect on the Dutch than a shorter term, which might have suffered them to entertain hopes still of breaking our measures, and bringing the Queen into action again. I did not much weigh the force of this argument, though I think it has some. What determined me to agree to four months, according to the latitude left in my instructions, was, first, what I remembered to have been the sense of several merchants whom I spoke with before I left London, who all seemed desirous of the longest term, and thought that two months would not encourage many people to venture upon some voyages; secondly, that a term of two months would as effectually cut off all prospect of acting by land this campaign as a term of four, and that therefore the sea-service would be chiefly affected by this suspension,

suspension, where we have more to apprehend than to hope.

Monfieur de Torcy had inserted in the draught these words—*les mers qui entourent les Isles Britanniques*, and cited the treaty of Breda as a precedent. I showed him, that before that treaty, the expression had always run *maribus Brittannicis*, particularly in the treaty with Cromwell, and that the error committed in that of Breda had been rectified in that of Ryswick. He insisted more than I expected on retaining his words, and entered a little into the dispute of dominion; this made me the more tenacious, and your Lordship will find these words—*les mers qui entourent les isles*, razed out, so that it stands now as it ought to do.

The suspension being now signed, I shall, pursuant to my instructions, dispatch her Majesty's orders to Sir John Jennings, to Mr. Chetwynd, and to the officer who commands the Queen's troops in Catalonia.

Monfieur de Torcy is likewise very earnest that the Duke of Argyle be dispatched, judging his presence necessary upon this new turn of affairs for the common interest.

—I cannot help thinking it is so, particularly for her Majesty's service.

Just now the Duke of Orleans * told me, that the King had this morning at his *levée* declared that the suspension of arms was signed; and Monsieur de Torcy informs me, that they intend to-morrow to publish it at Paris. I will, therefore, lose no time in dispatching this courier, as soon as I receive, which I expect every moment, the copy of the act of renunciation, which has been prepared in Spain, and wherein the Spaniards seem to have neglected no expression which could add to the strength, and no form which could add to the validity of it. Philip's consent to the cancelling the entry of 1700, mentioned in the convention for the suspension of arms in Flanders, and the inserting the substitution of the Duke of Savoy, will be the subjects of additional clauses. I shall be extremely concerned if the Queen does not receive this account before the news comes any other way; but

* Afterwards Regent of France; famous (says Voltaire) for his courage, his wit, and his pleasures; born for social life, even more than for public business, and one of the most amiable men that ever lived.—He was nephew to Louis XIV.

I lose no time, and I hope the messenger will lose none.

The fifty passes in blank I have not yet received, but hope to have them time enough to accompany this dispatch.

The Chevalier has fixed his departure on the 1st of next month, N.S.; they propose that he shall retire to Bar; and they intend to write to the Duke of Lorain, to ask of the Emperor and other Princes a security for his person, during his residence in that place.

I must not conclude this letter without asking your Lordship's pardon, for a piece of false news, which I sent you from Calais, concerning an action at Pont-à-Râche: the story was told us with so many circumstances, that I made no doubt of the truth of it, especially when the Major of this place quoted a letter, which he said he received from his son-in-law, who was at that time in the army.

I inclose the convention for the armistice in the Netherlands, which your Lordship will have occasion for; and which, with the act of renunciation, and with the minutes transmitted to you, will afford sufficient

materials for my Lord Lexington's instructions.

As I intend to leave this place on Wednesday at farthest, it will be proper to lose no time in dispatching a letter of credence to Mr. Prior, to whom your Lordship will likewise please as soon as possible to send the Queen's ratification.

This letter is already swoln to so great a bulk, that I believe your Lordship is very willing that I should refer to another opportunity such farther accounts as I have to give of my proceedings.

I am, my Lord, &c.

BOLINGBROKE.

SINCE I closed my letter, Monsieur de Torcy sent me word, a courier is arrived from Turin, in his way to England, and desired to know if I would have him go on, which I did not think proper to hinder. I suppose this courier is dispatched to the Count de Maffei, upon the impatience which the Duke of Savoy is under upon not hearing from hence, according to what he was made to expect by his Minister's letters, which went by way of Holland, some time ago.

I am

I am only to observe to your Lordship, that the sooner you take an opportunity of speaking to the Count de Maffei the better.

Besides the papers mentioned in my letter, I send your Lordship a form of publication of the suspension, and a memoir which I received from Monsieur de Torcy, concerning some articles of trade. General Stanhope * is just arrived here, in his way to Britain.

BOLINGBROKE.

To Mr. Prior†.

DEAR MAT,

Whitehall, 27th August, 1712.

THE dispatches of business will come to you from the other office, and from me you shall have now and then a letter of friendship.

When I arrived at Court, I did not find the differences between us and France, on the article of North America, and on those in

* He had a command in Spain under Stahrenberg, and was made prisoner, with his whole force, at Bahurga. When he arrived in Britain, he sided with the opposition. At the accession of George the First, he came into office; and upon the impeachment of Lord Bolingbroke, was appointed to take possession of his papers.

† Prior went over with Bolingbroke to France, and was left there, though in what character is hard to determine, probably as Resident, or Chargé d'Affaires.

the treaty of commerce, concerning which I spoke to you, either considered, or put in a way of being considered. This afflicted my soul; because, though we cannot be ready to sign till the great article has received its completion in France and Spain, yet the sooner the terms of our treaty are settled the better it must be for the Queen's interest. A cloud of arguments back this way of reasoning; but it is sufficient to reflect, that when the States are once enough humbled to submit, and they are very near reduced to this point already, as the French will be less in need of our interposition, so will they have less regard to our instances.

I hope my Lords of the Council are determined to have such alternatives, and such expedients found on these litigated articles, as may enable our Plenipotentiaries to rest on something practicable, to render their work the more easy and concise.—You will be instructed to begin; and I own to you I think we must depend on Monsieur de Torcy, when we know what we would have, to get it for us.

The blunder committed about the passes is very great—because the French cannot
import

import during the war several sorts of goods into Britain, *ergo*, do not give to them, nor take to yourselves, the advantage of sailing unmolested all over the world: whatever impositions may be laid, either here or in France, must continue, till by a treaty of commerce they are taken off, and the subjects of both kingdoms must submit to them. But the passes do not pretend to dispense with the laws, and should therefore not have been on any account delayed. I hope the courier who brings this dispatch is loaded with a large number; you cannot make too much haste in returning as many hither; the want of them occasions no little clamour.

Since I writ thus far, I find you will be instructed to make an end as to the disputes still remaining between us and France.

There is great industry used by the Whigs to represent the suspension of arms as insignificant, or rather hurtful, to trade; the French, they say, will not take our ships as French, but as Nieuport and Spanish privateers they will. You may remember I spoke to Monsieur de Torcy about the case of the Elector of Bavaria's giving commissions

fions*. I think the convention provides sufficiently for Spain; however, pray take care to set this matter past dispute, and let Monsieur de Torcy know I desire it of him. If the Elector of Bavaria makes any difficulty, we have ways enough to make him repent it, which I think you would do well to insinuate.

I am in a prodigious hurry, but cannot conclude without entreating you to make my compliments to every body.

About Drift and your own affairs, you shall hear from me at the end of the week.

Adieu, dear Mat,

I am, and ever will be, &c.

BOLINGBROKE.

To the Earl of Strafford.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, August 27th, 1712.

YOU cannot place your confidence in any man who is more sincerely, or more affectionately, your servant than I am. In this character I will at all times serve you to the

* Probably to privateers from Nieuport, then in his possession.

utmost

utmost of my power, and in this character you will allow me at all times to speak to you without the least reserve.

As soon as I came to Windsor, at my return from France, I heard that Lord Rivers was dead, and at the same time the Duke of Hamilton was to be the Master of the Ordnance, and that the Queen had determined how to dispose of the regiment—this came to me through so authentic a channel, that there was no room to doubt of the certainty of it; and I therefore judged in your Lordship's case as I should have done in my own, that it was better not to stir in an affair which had already been determined by the Queen.

The employment of First Commissioner of the Admiralty brings your Lordship into Cabinet, preserves to you the rank, and to her the advantage of your being still a Minister, which could not have been if the other employment had fallen to your share, without making a precedent for enlarging the Cabinet, which her Majesty had much rather confine than extend.

As to the embassy of France, I do not see how that could well have been given either
to

to your Lordship or to me ; the Ambassadors to this Court must be present when the renunciations are made, and by consequence before the peace is concluded, which seems incompatible with the post your Lordship is in, and has with so great reputation filled at Utrecht. As for my own part, unless I was turned out of the Secretary's office, it would be impossible to dispense with my absence from Whitehall.

Since I writ thus far, my Lord Treasurer tells me that he sends, in my packet, a letter to your Lordship ; so that I hope you will receive from him more satisfaction than I am able to give you, more than I desire to give you it is impossible your Lordship should receive from any body.

Before I conclude this letter, give me leave to take notice to you of the impertinence of the Dutch Gazettes as to my journey into France, and particularly of the slip which the Duke of Shrewsbury just now put into my hands, and which I inclose ; the Queen will, I believe, order some public notice to be taken of these insolent lies, and in the mean time your Lordship will do me a singular favour, and the Queen's
service

service right, if you please to have the Gazetteer at least reprimanded. I am, &c.

To the Duke of Ormond.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, August 29th, 1712.

THE feverish indisposition which hung about me after my return from France, and which made me go, for a few days, into the country, was the occasion of my not writing last week, as I intended to have done, to your Grace.

The positive order contained in my other letter, is not sent to prevent the admission of other troops besides her Majesty's into Ghent and Bruges; the Queen is enough satisfied that your Grace will take effectual care to preserve those cautionary places, which can alone secure to her any tolerable conditions with respect to the Netherlands, in the terms of peace. But I confess, I thought it could be no ways unnecessary, to give your Grace a very positive and clear order, in an affair which may perhaps make a great deal of noise; I believe your Grace is of my mind.

The

The Queen, my Lord, commands me to let your Grace likewise know, that although the body of troops at present with you, and the employment of them, should not naturally require one of your rank, yet she judges it for her service, in the present conjuncture of affairs, that you continue some time longer where you are. When the campaign closes, and the conferences open as to the disposition of the Spanish Netherlands, your name and figure in Ghent will be necessary. Her Majesty thinks the place you are in not very agreeable to you, but after so many proofs of your Grace's preferring her service to every other consideration, she makes no doubt of your remaining with pleasure in the same situation, till you receive orders to come over; before which time, it will be proper to think of the person who is to command during your Grace's absence.

I am, &c.

To Mr. Prior.

DEAR MATT,

Whitehall, August 29th, 1712.

I AM at last involved in the common calamity, and have got the fever upon me, which almost every creature in this country has felt. This must be my excuse to Madame de Croissy and Monsieur de Torcy, if I do not acknowledge by letter the many civilities which I received, and which I preserve a most grateful sense of.

I am preparing a cargo of Honey-water, Barbadoes-water, and Sack, whereof I shall desire you to take upon you the distribution. Drift shall be hastened to you, and by him you shall have an account of your own affairs.

I wrote to the Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht, to insert in the Treaty with Spain, the same acknowledgment of our own succession, as in that with France, and it will be proper you should prepare the French ministers on this head; you will mention it as a point which the Queen takes to be of course. When we make such a stride for Philip, it is not to be supposed, that he can pretend to
dispute

dispute what his grandfather has submitted to. Adieu, my head-ach delivers you from farther trouble at this time, but woe betide you when I am well.

Ever, dear Matt, faithfully your's,
BOLINGBROKE.

To the Earl of Albemarle.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, September 10th, 1712.

I HAD the honour of your first letter since my return to Court, and during my journey to France, I received that which you writ me from Cambray. Your Lordship may be assured that I would have neglected nothing in my power to have served you, had I come to Paris before you obtained the licence from the King*, and I beg you to believe, that whenever you lay your commands upon me, you shall find me ready to execute them with the greatest pleasure; for though I have not the good fortune to be much known personally to your Lordship, yet no man has a truer sense of

* The Earl of Albemarle had been defeated and taken prisoner, at Denain, 24th July, N.S.

your

your merit, or value for your character than myself.

A feverish indisposition, which has been upon me ever since my return to this country, hindered me from giving your Lordship these assurances sooner, which delay I depend on your goodness to excuse; and am, my Lord, &c.

A Monsieur Marschalch.

De Whitehall, ce 10me Septembre, 1712.

JE viens, Monsieur, de recevoir la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 9me de ce mois, & que mon frère m'a remise.

J'ose appeler à vous-même, Monsieur, si la Reine ne s'est pas souvenu des intérêts du Roi votre maître, depuis le commencement de la négociation, & si, dans le tems qu'elle a reçu de presque tous ses alliés un traitement qu'elle ne méritoit assurément pas, les articles qui regardent vos intérêts n'étoient à-peu-près ajustés.

Je vous ai toujours parlé, je vous ai toujours écrit, avec une ouverture, dont je me ferois bien gardé de me servir, si je n'avois

su que l'intention de la Reine étoit de vivre dans une étroite union avec le Roi votre maître, & d'obtenir pour lui une satisfaction entière avant la conclusion de la paix. La Reine a été informée des communications que je vous ai faites, & des assurances que je vous ai souvent répétées, elle les a approuvés, & c'est par cette raison qu'elle a été d'autant plus surprise, quand elle a reçu les nouvelles de la conduite du Prince d'Anhalt, & des ordres de votre Roi*.

La Reine, Monsieur, n'abandonne pas ses alliés; plutôt à Dieu qu'elle n'en eût été jamais abandonnée! le plus grand regret que sa Majesté sent, est celui de se trouver à la veille de ne pouvoir se servir pour eux que de bons offices & de remontrances.

Il n'y a rien que je desire en mon particulier plus ardemment que de mériter la faveur de sa Majesté Prussienne; je me flatte que le petit Bonet* ne m'aura pas représenté d'une autre manière, quoiqu'à vous dire la vérité j'en soupçonne quelque chose, car il me semble que je ne suis pas trop bien dans l'esprit de ce Résident, depuis que je

* Not to agree to the suspension of arms, nor obey the orders of the British General.

† Prussian Resident.

J'ai un jour interrompu, pour l'empêcher de dire certaines choses, qu'il ne convenoit pas au Secrétaire de la Reine d'entendre.

En tous tems, en tous lieux, & en toutes circonstances, Je suis, mon cher Monsieur,
Entièrement à vous,

B.

To Mr. Whitworth.

SIR,

Whitehall, September 9th, 1712.

YOUR's of the 9th came to my hands last night, as your precedent dispatches have done in their course.

The intention of this private letter is only to acquaint you, by the first opportunity, that I believe her Majesty may take the resolution of employing you in a place where your talents will be more useful to her than they can be in the present post, and where she can hardly pitch upon a minister with too great caution and deliberation.

If I have orders next week to acquaint you that you are recalled from the Czar's Court, it may perhaps be of some convenience to have this previous notice.

D 2

I am

I am apt to think, you will be directed to receive your instructions here, and the Queen will herself be willing to tell you how much she relies upon you, and what a mark of her confidence she gives you.

You will make what use you please of the hint, without giving it to any person till you hear again from, Sir, your's, &c.

De Monsieur de Torcy.

A Fontainbleau, ce 26me d'Août, 1712.

JE vous ai promis, my Lord, la réponse du Roi à la Reine, & j'ai l'honneur de vous l'envoyer avec la copie *. Je regrette beau-

* Copie de la lettre de la main du Roi à la Reine de la Grande Bretagne; du 26 d'Août, 1712, à Fontainbleau.

“ MADAME MA SŒUR,

“ Je n'ai jamais douté de la sincérité de vos intentions pour avancer la paix, mais vous avez confirmé la juste opinion que j'en avois, en envoyant auprès de moi le Vicomte de Bolingbroke votre Secrétaire d'Etat. Vous ne pourriez choisir un ministre plus capable d'abrégér & d'aplanir les difficultés de négociation. Je suis persuadé que vous serez aussi contente de ce qu'il a fait, que j'ai été satisfait moi-même de sa conduite, & principalement des assurances qu'il m'a données de vos sentimens pour moi. Quoique je ne doute pas qu'il ne vous rende un compte exact de ceux que je lui ai témoigné pour vous, je veux encore y ajouter, que je n'oublierai rien pour entretenir avec vous une amitié parfaite, & pour vous marquer en toutes occasions qui je suis, Madame ma Sœur,

“ Votre bon Frère,

(Signé)

“ L O U I S.”

coup

coup de ne pouvoir vous la remettre moi-même, & je vous assure que je suis bien fâché de voir notre correspondance réduite désormais aux simples lettres. Mais je sens qu'il ne faut pas que je traite long-tems un pareil article, ainsi permettez-moi de passer à celui des lettres que j'ai trouvées à mon retour ici de Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires du Roi à Utrecht.

Comme ils attendoient le succès de votre voyage, leurs raisonnemens sur les affaires générales sont un peu incertains, & l'essentiel de la dépêche regarde une querelle particulière de Monsieur Mefnager avec Monsieur de Rechteren *. Je vous envoie, my Lord, le mémoire que j'ai reçu sur cette affaire.

Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires concluent, & je crois que c'est avec raison, que ceux qui ne veulent pas la paix cherchent à faire naître des incidents pour rompre les confé-

* This dispute originated with their servants.—Count de Rechteren, one of the Dutch Plenipotentiaries, complained that his domestics had been insulted by those of Mefnager; the latter examined his servants, and judged that they had not been the aggressors, and refused to give them up, according to the rules agreed upon for the preservation of good order. Rechteren's servants attacked Mefnager's, treated them roughly, and this produced the quarrel between the masters. The King of France ordered the conferences to be broken off until the insult was repaired; and the dispute was ended by the recall of the Dutch Plenipotentiary.

rences d'Utrecht *. Pour moi, la conséquence que j'en tire, & que vous ne trouverez pas moins vraie, est que Monsieur Mesnager n'aime pas la guerre, & que son Excellence de Rechteren étoit yvre.

Quoiqu'il en soit, je crois, Monsieur, qu'il n'est pas tems de rompre les conférences, ni d'en menacer; qu'il faut laisser les Hollandois s'endormir dans leur opiniâtreté, & leurs Ministres s'enyvrer autant *de la représentation* de souverains que de *santés*†, & pour cet effet, il ne fera pas mauvais, ce me semble, de se rendre un peu difficile sur la satisfaction que le Roi est en droit de prétendre des discours & du procédé de Monsieur de Rechteren. Si vous pensez autrement ayez la bonté de me le faire savoir. Vous connoissez ma docilité pour vous, & vous m'avez aisément accoutumé à me rendre sans peine à vos avis.

Le fripon d'Assurini entre aujourd'hui à la Bastille. Je vous envoie, my Lord, la copie des avis qu'il a donné en Hollande: je

* Rechteren was much in the interest of the Emperor, and against a peace. The Emperor had created him a Count; and his brother had lucrative employments in the army, which would cease at the concluding of a peace.

† This alludes to the custom of drinking health.

les ai reçu de Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires. Il n'avoit point de papiers, s'il en a laissé quelques-uns à Paris, je les aurai demain.

Si son Excellence Vanderdussen * ajoute foi à de pareils mémoires, il ne doit pas croire la France épuisée, quoiqu'à mon sens elle ne vous eut pas acheté assez cher, vous, my Lord, & le Comte d'Oxford.

On m'écrit aussi d'Utrecht que le Comte de Viglio doit être à Paris. Mais il me semble que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de me dire qu'il étoit en Angleterre.

Permettez-moi de ne vous point parler des regrets que cause ici votre départ. Si vous en doutiez, vous auriez mauvaise opinion de tous ceux qui ont eu l'honneur de vous voir ; je ne me distingue pas, parce que j'espère que vous me distinguerez toujours comme celui qui est avec l'attachement le plus sincère & le plus véritable, &c.

DE TORCY.

* Pensionary of Gouda, and one of the Dutch Plenipotentiaries.

De Monsieur de Torcy.

COMME vous avez approuvé, my Lord, la proposition que je vous ai faite sur l'affaire de Monsieur de Rechteren. J'ai rendu compte au Roi de ce que j'avois eu l'honneur de vous en écrire, & de votre réponse, & les ordres que sa Majesté donne à Messieurs ses Plénipotentiaires dans le même sens.

Elle veut qu'ils demandent, par la voie de Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires d'Angleterre, que les Etats-Généraux déclarent qu'ils défavouent le procédé de Monsieur de Rechteren. Que les autres Plénipotentiaires d'Holland aillent pour cet effet, tous ensemble, chez un de ceux du Roi, où les deux autres Plénipotentiaires se trouveront en même-tems. Que Monsieur de Rechteren, auteur de l'insulte, soit révoqué, & qu'il soit nommé un autre Plénipotentiaire à sa place, comme la marque la plus certaine qu'il s'est conduit sans l'aveu & contre les intentions de ses maîtres.

Je crois qu'ils auront peine à donner une pareille satisfaction, quelque juste qu'elle
3 soit ;

soit ; mais ce fera matière de négociation pendant qu'on fera mieux ailleurs *.

Le Chevalier † m'écrit qu'il aimeroit mieux aller à Châlons qu'à Rheims, parce que les partis ennemis approchent de cette dernière ville, & que les vivres y sont chers. Je ne vois nulle difficulté à ce changement, le principal étant qu'il se mette en marche, & l'une & l'autre ville étant également un lieu de passage pour lui, où il ne doit demeurer que jusqu'à ce qu'on ait pourvu à sa sûreté hors du royaume. Si vous pensez autrement, my Lord, vous aurez la bonté de me le faire savoir & vous serez satisfait. Vous avez en vérité lieu de l'être de tous les sentimens que vous avez inspirés ici pour vous.

Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont ‡ vous en rendra compte plus particulièrement qu'il ne le fait encore dans la lettre que j'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer. Je ne lui envie que le plaisir de vous revoir incessamment, & de réparer le peu de tems que nous vous avons

* This quarrel afforded a then necessary suspension of the conferences till every thing was perfectly settled between Great Britain and France.

† The Pretender.

‡ Lately appointed ambassador of France to the court of Great Britain,

possédé ici. Je lui laisserai le soin de vous apprendre quelle vanité les dames que vous avez distinguées par vos louanges, ont tirée d'une approbation telle que la vôtre.

Je vous prierai seulement de croire que de tous ceux qui ont eu l'honneur de vous voir ici, personne n'est plus parfaitement que je serai toute ma vie,

Monfieur, votre, &c.

DE TORCY.

A Fontainbleau, le 29me d'Août, 1712.

De Monsieur de Torcy.

J'APPRENDS, my Lord, votre heureuse arrivée à Londres, & j'attends avec impatience des nouvelles de la reception que la Reine vous aura faite, pour m'en réjouir avec vous.

J'espère que vous aurez achevé de convertir vos infidelles; les nôtres conservent encore quelques restes de leur incrédulité, & fortifiés par Messieurs vos Plénipotentiaires, ils ont peine à croire que le plan porté par l'Abbé Gaultier doive être celui de la paix. J'avoue que leurs raisonnemens, après ce que vous m'avez dit, my Lord, me cau-

sent peu d'inquiétude. Mais pour votre honneur & pour le mien, je vous supplie de faire savoir à Messieurs vos Négociateurs à Utrecht quand il en sera tems, que l'intention de la Reine est que ce plan soit suivi : vous m'en avez assuré, lorsque je vous ai accordé au nom du Roi, ce qu'elle a demandé pour Monsieur le Duc de Savoye. Ainsi vous ferez aisément cesser les alarmes de vos Plénipotentiaires sur Tournay, & les raisonnemens de nos infidelles.

Suivant ce que l'Abbé Gaultier m'écrit de votre part, le Roi dépêche un courier à Madrid & conseille au Roi d'Espagne d'accorder le pardon aux Catalans, & je ne doute pas qu'il ne suive un aussi bon avis. Il souhaite d'avoir des passeports pour six vaisseaux Espagnols prêts à partir pour les Indes Occidentales. Je vous supplie, my Lord, de vouloir bien les envoyer le plutôt qu'il sera possible à Monsieur Prior, à qui j'en ai déjà parlé.

Il est parti de Paris avec assez de peine, mais enfin nous le possédons ici depuis trois jours. Il étoit souhaité non-seulement pour sa bonne compagnie, mais pour avoir le plaisir de parler de vous avec lui ; & je vous assure
que

que quoique sa sincérité soit grande, vous ne devez point être en peine, & que vous ne perdez rien de la bonne opinion que vous nous avez laissée.

Madame la Duchesse d'Elbeuf compte beaucoup sur celle que vous avez emportée de Madame sa nièce, & je crois que c'est dans cette confiance qu'elle vous écrit la lettre que j'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer.

Permettez-moi, sans autre secours, de compter entièrement sur l'honneur de votre amitié, & faites-moi, je vous supplie, la justice de croire qu'on ne peut être plus parfaitement que je suis, Monsieur, votre, &c.

DE TORCY.

A Fontainbleau, le 8me Septembre, 1712.

Le Chevalier est véritablement parti hier, & je viens de recevoir une lettre de lui dattée de Meaux; il continue son voyage jusqu'à Châlons-sur-Marne.

A Monsieur de Torcy.

De Whitehall, ce 10me Sept. V.S. 1712.

IL n'est pas étrange, Monsieur, qu'en partant de France on y laisse son cœur derrière
soi,

foi, mais j'ai eu le malheur d'y laisser aussi ma fanté. En effet, depuis mon retour j'ai eu des accès de fièvre, qui m'ont empêché de travailler à mon ordinaire. Je suis allé à la campagne, pour tâcher de me remettre, & il n'y a que quatre jours que je suis revenu à la cour : voilà, Monsieur, la raison qui m'a privé du plus grand plaisir que je puisse avoir, qui est celui de correspondre avec vous. Je reprends la plume avec joie, & je ne fais si j'en ressentirois plus en écrivant à Madame de Courcillon, ou à Madame de Parabèze.

Outre l'intérêt particulier que j'ai à entretenir ce commerce de lettre, je crois pouvoir dire que l'intérêt général s'y trouvera ; car quoique le Comte de Dartmouth, dans le département duquel est la France, doit naturellement communiquer les ordres de la Reine à Monsieur Prior, les lettres pourtant que je vous écrirai avec cette ouverture de cœur que je vous ai promis, & à laquelle je m'attends de votre part, ne manqueront pas de prévenir quelques difficultés, & d'en applanir d'autres.

Jamais surprise n'a été égale à la mienne quand j'ai vu, par la lettre que vous avez écrite

écrite à Monsieur le Grand Trésorier, & par celle que Monsieur Prior m'a envoyée, que les intentions de la Reine avoient été expliquées d'une manière à vous faire croire, que Monsieur de Lexington tarderoit à saluer le Roi & la Reine d'Espagne, & à les reconnoître pour tels, jusqu'à ce que l'article de la réunion fût accompli. Il ne prendra, à la vérité, que dans ce tems-là, ou à la paix, le caractère d'Ambassadeur ; mais il ne fera pas plus de difficultés de reconnoître le Roi d'Espagne, que ce Prince apparemment n'en fera de consentir à tout ce que sa Majesté Très Chrétienne a promis dans son nom : les instructions de ce Ministre ont été parcourues de nouveau par les Seigneurs du Conseil, & je vous avoue qu'il faut être extrêmement subtil, pour pouvoir y trouver quelque chose d'obscur ou d'équivoque.

Monsieur Prior vous donnera satisfaction sur cet article, le Comte de Dartmouth ayant eu ordre de lui envoyer les informations nécessaires.

Vous me marquez, Monsieur, dans votre lettre du 8me Septembre, que les infidèles chez vous conservent encore quelques restes de leur incrédulité. Il en est de même chez
nous ;

nous; & ces gens doivent être bien endurcis dans le péché, qui ne se laissent pas convertir à la foi par tant de miracles. Mais continuons, Monsieur, à agir sur un plan uniforme, & à conserver de part & d'autre cette bonne foi qui a été jusques ici inviolablement gardée, & nous viendrons à la fin à bout de ces disciples de St. Thomas.

Votre honneur & le mien, qui me sont également chers, feront aussi également en sûreté pendant que nous nous tiendrons à ce que j'ai eu la permission de vous dire des intentions de la Reine, sur le plan général de la paix. Vous vous souviendrez, Monsieur, que je vous ai représenté que la conduite de sa Majesté Très Chrétienne, à l'égard des intérêts de ses alliés, étoit en quelque façon déterminée par la leur, que les mesures violentes qu'ils ont prises pour traverser la négociation, avoient eu l'effet de mettre la Reine en état de faire la paix sans attendre leur concurrence; que dans ce cas sa Majesté Très Chrétienne, leur déclareroit qu'elle avoit signé le traité avec la France & l'Espagne, qu'elle leur proposeroit le plan apporté par l'Abbé Gaultier, comme celui sur lequel ils pouvoient faire la paix, & qu'elle

qu'elle leur feroit favoir que dorénavant elle ne pourroit agir que par ses bons offices, comme l'amie commune de toutes les parties.

Vous vous souviendrez aussi, Monsieur, que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous dire, qu'en cas que les Hollandois particulièrement, ou autres alliés, prissent le parti d'entrer, devant la conclusion de la paix de la Reine dans le concert avec sa Majesté Très Chrétienne, nous aurions plus de mesures à garder, la compassion du peuple chez nous seroit émue, & les Ministres de la Reine obligés à faire des pas, que dans l'autre cas ils refuseroient absolument de faire.

Voilà ce que j'ai avancé en France par ordre de sa Majesté, ce que je répète aujourd'hui par le même ordre, & ce que vous trouverez, Monsieur, ponctuellement suivi.

Les Plénipotentiaires du Roi paroissent exiger de nous quelque chose de plus, quand ils insistent que les Ministres de la Reine proposent la tenue d'une conférence, dans laquelle on débitera, par une proposition qui paroît en quelque façon contraire à ce que la Reine a dit dans sa harangue, touchant la barrière des Etats-Généraux. Il ne s'agit pas

pâs dans la dispute survenue entre vos Plénipotentiaires & les nôtres, de savoir si Tournay fera restituée au Roi ou non ; car pour obtenir cette place il n'est pas nécessaire que vous commenciez en faisant cette déclaration spécifique. Mais il s'agit de savoir si la Reine doit déclarer formellement, & dès à présent, que Tournay sera rendu à la France ; car ce feroit déclarer cela, que de consentir à l'exposition que Messieurs vos Ministres veulent donner à cet article de la harangue. Pour ne pas trop grossir une lettre qui a déjà la mine de devenir un peu ennuyeuse, je me remettrai à ce que Monsieur Prior aura l'honneur de vous exposer sur ce point, & je me contenterai de dire que comme le tempérament n'est pas difficile à trouver, j'espère que nous éviterons toutes choses qui peuvent causer de dispute entre les Ministres de la Grande Bretagne & de la France.

Le Comte de Dartmouth envoie douze passeports pour les vaisseaux prêts à partir pour les Indes Occidentales, que le Roi d'Espagne demande, & Monsieur Prior vous les remettra d'abord.

La Reine n'a nulle objection au changement qui s'est fait dans la route du Cheva-

lier ; l'essentiel est qu'on ne perde point de tems à lui procurer la sûreté requise, afin qu'il puisse sortir hors du royaume.

Je me flatte que la Duchesse d'Elbeuf sera contente de ce que j'ai fait en vertu des ordres dont elle m'a chargé & je vous prie de vouloir bien lui faire tenir l'incluse.

Je suis persuadé que vous me faites la justice de croire que je n'ai rien négligé de tout ce que je pouvois faire pour le service du Duc de St. Pierre *. Il suffit qu'il vous appartienne pour que je sois dévoué à ses intérêts, & la Reine a été très aise d'avoir cette occasion de vous montrer son estime & son amitié en donnant à ses Plénipotentiaires des ordres très précis de seconder ceux de France dans toutes les instances qu'ils doivent faire pour procurer à Monsieur le Duc la satisfaction qu'il demande avec tant de justice.

Excusez, s'il vous plaît, toutes les fautes

* It appears by a memoir of the Duke, that he had lent to the late King of Spain 800,000 livres, for the defence of the Milanese, and for which sum that duchy was mortgaged to him. The King gave up to him in payment of the mortgage the principality of Sabionette, with a promise that in case it was taken from him, he should receive an equivalent. In 1707, the principality was taken from him, and he now urges his claim upon the Emperor as mortgagee of the Duchy, and requires payment to be a stipulation in the treaty of peace, but offers to accept the sovereignty of Porto Longone, or the Marquisate of Varese or Final, as an equivalent.

d'une lettre écrite fort à la hâte, & que je n'ai pas eu le tems de rendre plus courte, & foyez assuré que je suis, & que je ferai toute ma vie, avec une affection, permettez moi de me servir de l'expression, très ardente, & une estime très parfaite,

Monfieur, votre, &c.

B.

From Mr. Prior.*

MY LORD,

Paris, the { 4th of September, } 1712.
 { 24th of August, }

I SEND this by Utrecht, though before your Lordship shall have received it, I hope to have your messenger from England, with your orders and directions; him will I dispatch back again with a more particular account of what I now am or may be charged with; this in all cases being only to tell your Lordship that Dagley just now arrived here (10, morning) with the ratification of the suspension, and Lord Dartmouth's observations upon it, upon which I go presently

* When Bolingbroke went to France, he took with him Prior, and his under-secretary, Hare; the former he left at Paris as a Plenipotentiary on the part of Great Britain.

to Fontainbleau, having left such orders behind that the messenger, whom I expect about Wednesday (this being Sunday) may come thither to me ; in the mean time, what I have to say to your Lordship is, that I have visited the Duc d'Aumont, and, as I ought, given him the best advices and instructions for his voyage ; he says, he depends mightily upon your Lordship's correspondence, as to his house and other affairs in England ; and I hope by the courier, whom I expect, to be instructed in that point, as in many others. I reserve myself to write all I have to say by the way of England immediately, but by every way I write I must not omit that I parted with you with more pangs than is proper or possible for me to tell you. I have performed all your commands here, and expect with pleasure those I am to perform ; being ever,

My Lord, &c.

M. PRIOR.

Be pleased to own to Lord Dartmouth the receipt of this letter, in case this reaches your Lordship before I write to him *en droiture*.

From

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Fontainbleau, { August 29th, } 1712.
 { September 9th, }

(The Messenger does not part till to-morrow morning.)

I HEAR by the exprefs which brings me the letters of the 23rd August—3rd September, that you were fafely arrived in England; I return the fame messenger, with my answer to fuch orders as I have received from Lord Dartmouth; upon which, for want of time, and Drift * to copy my letters, I beg your Lordship to be referred, and defire your favourable explanation, fince in the whole I have (as I always fhall) followed your direction. As to the term for the ceffation to take place in the feas beyond the line, if there be any difficulty, your Lordship will fee it taken off by the article which Monsieur de Torcy has drawn up, the King approved, and which your Lordship having figned (as you will find it dated while you were here) and ratified, may be figned and ratified here in like manner. N.B. You return the instrument in which Torcy figns firft. I, upon

* Prior's Secretary.

the receipt of your instrument, sending back theirs to you, the sign, I think, they call the sign-manuel will be sufficient to both, so Mr. Torcy says. I send to Lord Dartmouth the ratification of the cessation, they received ours with great satisfaction: I sent Dagley yesterday with the packet to Lord Peterborough at Turin.

Mr. Torcy this morning told me, he hears he is gone to Vienna: *Quod felix faustumque sit.*—I do not question but he will take Bender* in his way home†.

The young gentleman‡ parted on Wednesday from Liori; he is gone to Châlon (sur la Maine) about an equal distance from Paris as Rheims; is very melancholy, but much resigned. The Elector of Bavaria, they say, is gone; but he has a little w—— upon the bank of the river, between this and Paris, *pour tuer le tems.*

As I have told you that I have writ the serious business to Lord Dartmouth, and that I expect every hour my cargo from England,

* Charles XII, King of Sweden, was then at Bender.

† This journey of the Earl to Bender is meant ironically, alluding to his zeal and activity, which certainly bordered upon enthusiasm.

‡ The Pretender.

with

with your commands, give me leave to tell you, I have performed those which you have already given me very faithfully. Madame Croissy sent me the great bag of money which you left, by her intendant, having given a strict prohibition to her servants not to take it. I made very flight of it, as of a *bagatelle* that she ought never to have heard of; that it did no way belong to me, if it did I would send it to the poor of the parish, or to some community which would make more noise than would please Monsieur de Torcy: at last he took it back; Madame Croissy chid me at my next visit in a friendly manner, and all is right. As is likewise your bounty to the comedians, in which there were likewise obstacles, the Duc de Tremes having paid the *loge**; but those too were overcome; and the Cyd and Climenet† thank you for your generosity.

I have a thousand compliments to make you; every night I sup with M. de Torcy, *en*

* Bolingbroke was received in France as the Minister of peace. His reception at Court was highly flattering; and upon entering the theatre the audience rose up, to mark their respect for his character, and their attachment to the object of his mission.

† Two characters in Corneille's excellent tragedy of the *Cyd*.

famille, Madame drinks two healths I have taught her, *à Harré & à Robin* * ; Madame Parabart is very proud of her good fortune, and the whole Court is pleased that upon that point Madame Courcillon's absolute power is retrenched. Madame de Feriolle's memoir I must not forget ; she has a sister that is run away from a nunnery, and now pleading the causes of her renunciation.

I do not, for I need not, say any thing to you about my own affairs, for by this time *jacta est alea* ; and I expect the courier, who will give me new occasion of testifying to your Lordship, that I am, &c.

M. PRIOR.

Pray remember the Duke d'Aumont's commissions to you, and send me the article and ratification back as soon as you can ; I do not explain farther to Lord Dartmouth, concerning *les mers Britanniques*, than that I think that point is upon such a foot, as not to be contested hereafter ; for I told you the method by which that was obtained, and in a letter which may be read in public, I would not seem *à faire le négociateur* ; besides, it is

* Bolingbroke and Oxford.

not proper that it should be known, except to yourself and Lord Treasurer, that it was gained by a pretty impudent artifice.

Monfieur des Marais *, told me this morning, that they were examining our articles of commerce, and in two or three days, he should be able to talk with me on that head.

From Mr. Prior.

MY DEAR LORD,

Fontainbleau, September 12, 1712.

I HAVE yours of the 27 August, O.S. and I have at the same time, one of the same date, from Lord Dartmouth; I beg your Lordship will consent to be referred to my letter to my Lord upon that subject, and I wish it were in my power to procure a more agreeable answer. In the fulness of my heart, I cannot forbear saying to *you* that while I expected your orders, and thought (as I had reason to think) that this negotiation, as it was confirmed by you here, ought to be finished by the same hand; I receive other directions, and for ought I know, or

* Comptroller-general of the Finances.

can perceive, am to go to sea again, while, as Monsieur de Torcy (if you will take the credit of an enemy) expresses it, we were in the port.

You tell me the dispatches will come from the other office, and that now and then, I shall have a letter of friendship from you; if so, my Lord, pray go to Bucklebury, and write to me at Cambridge. I own to you, I do not know what all this means, though I have endeavoured to explain it to the Duke de Beauvilliers, and Monsieur de Marais, and Monsieur de Torcy; therefore, my dear Lord Bolingbroke, let me have orders consonant to what is already done, and such as may contribute effectually to a speedy peace; interest yourself in this matter, remembering that every man can destroy, but very few can build. As for my own part, I vow to God, I care not; but I would have these people see, that we act unanimously, and as becomes a nation; that our orders, and our councils are of a piece. They tell me, *that my Lord Lexington will acknowledge him (Philip) King of Spain, and the Indies, with an et cætera, which, I suppose, are all the titles he either values or desires.* I cite you the very words

words of the letter from Lord Dartmouth, 27th August, and desire you to give me, as well your own as my Lord Treasurer's sentiments about it ; did an *et cætera* ever accompany any thing but the last letter, in the four-and-twenty ? Pray set us right, and let me have orders practicable, at the same time that I expect power to execute them. I have endeavoured to hinder the blunders committed in the passes, by explaining my desires in relation to those which will be given. *Dii meliora !* But instead of any thing that may enlarge our commerce, or give these people reason to think we are free, or would be so, as to matters of trade, I am only furnished with No. I. and No. II. copies of the Attorney and Solicitor Generals' reports, that it is not in the Queen's power to open the trade.

Now you have heard all my grievances, pray help me, and dispatch your orders, the papers, and Drift ; I think my case is this : I have neither powers, commission, title, instructions, appointments, or Secretary.

I never saw any thing so dejected as Monsieur de Torcy is, that the passports are not signed by Harré ; neither he, nor I, nor any

man else, understands why we are to go into another channel now ; in short, it is the grand dance in the rehearsal, and we are all out.

P R I V A T E.

*Hæc cum dixisset
Quærit calendis ponere.*

2-13 September.

I supped last night, *pro more* with the family, and we were all merry, except Monsieur de Torcy, who is really a good deal concerned and, faith ! with reason ; he has more enemies than I thought, and has reason to apprehend any shock in our affairs.

Just as I have made up my paquets, and, *pour faire la bonne bouche*, was going to tell you, that I am sincerely your servant ; Monsieur de Torcy has sent for me, and by the King's order, let me take a copy of Philip's letter to his Majesty, by which all is agreed as we or he desire. His Majesty's will is, that I should take a copy of it, being able to say, that I saw the original, and that I should transfer that copy immediately to the Queen, which I accordingly do, directing it to my Lord Treasurer ; I repeat again to you the hundred difficulties which will arrive upon my uncertain correspondence, and as I have

writ

writ on this subject to Lord Treasurer, I beg it may be redressed; so does Monsieur de Torcy.

To Mr. Prior.

DEAR MATT,

Whitehall, August 29, 1712.

I AM at last involved in the common calamity, and have got the fever upon me which almost every creature in this country has felt.

This must be my excuse to Madame de Croissy, and to Monsieur de Torcy, if I do not acknowledge by letter the many civilities which I received, and which I preserve a most grateful sense of.

Drift shall be hastened to you, and by him you shall have an account of your own affairs.

I write to the Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht, to insert in the treaty with Spain, the same acknowledgement of our succession, as in that with France; and it will be proper you should prepare the French Ministers on this head; you will mention it as a point which the Queen takes to be of course. When we

make such a stride for Philip, it is not to be supposed, that he can pretend to dispute what his grandfather has submitted to. Adieu, my head-ache delivers you from farther trouble at this time, but woe betide you when I am well.

Ever, dear Matt, faithfully yours,

BOLINGBROKE.

To Mr. Prior.

DEAR MATT,

Whitehall, September 10th, 1712.

I WAS equally surprized and vexed to find, that by the uncouth way of explaining the Queen's sense, you had been led to imagine, that it was intended my Lord Lexington should make any difficulty of seeing and complimenting the King of Spain, as such. We spent about three hours in penning minutes yesterday upon this head, which was long ago adjusted. I suppose the instructions will be at last clear, but my Lord Lexington having been present at the debate, his understanding of the matter will make amends for any dark ambiguous articles which may be in them.

Dartmouth

Dartmouth is to communicate the Queen's orders herein to you, that so you may be able to satisfy the French Ministers, and they to prepare the Spanish Ministers. However, I will venture to tell you in few words what I understand is to be the measure of Lord Lexington's conduct: as soon as he arrives at Madrid, he will notify his arrival to the Secretary of State; he will, when he sees this Minister, let him know that the Queen has sent him thither to compliment the King, in her name; to be a witness of the several renunciations, and other acts requisite to complete the execution of the article agreed upon, as necessary to prevent the union of the two monarchies; that after this, he is to proceed to settle such matters of commerce, and other affairs, as are for the mutual interest of both nations, and to take the character of ambassador upon him. My Lord will at the same time produce his credentials, and give the Secretary a copy of them, if he desires. In this conference he will farther take notice of the several cessions made by the King of France, in behalf of his grandson to the Queen, and will speak of them as points which he
looks

looks upon as concluded. He will likewise give a memorial of them in writing, signed by himself, to the Secretary, and expect from him an assent in the King's name, in writing also, and signed by the Secretary.

This seems natural, civil, and unexceptionable, but any other scheme is absurd and inconsistent with all the rest of our proceedings.

For God's sake, dear Matt, hide the nakedness of thy country, and give the best turn thy fertile brain will furnish thee with, to the blunders of thy countrymen, who are not much better politicians than the French are poets.

I have writ in great haste a prodigious long letter to Monsieur de Torcy, which I believe he will show you; but for fear he should not, I inclose in this an extract of part of it, which relates to a matter that has given Lord Treasurer and your humble servant no small trouble in cabinet. The copy of the Plenipotentiaries' dispatch of the 2d of September, which I likewise send you, will show you how a dispute, now on foot at Utrecht, began; you will observe that their Lordships are very warm in it, and I
can

can assure you we have those here who are not a jot cooler.

The solution of this difficulty must come from you, it is a matter of management and appearance, more than substance, and the Court of France must be less politic than I think them at any time, and more unreasonable than I think them at this time, not to come into a temperament upon a matter unnecessarily started. You must begin by making Monsieur de Torcy not only understand, but own he understands the proposition, which I am sure you may remember I more than once repeated to him, when I was in France, upon various occasions, and which I have again stated as clearly as I am able. The Queen can never do any thing which shall look like a direct restraint on her allies from demanding what they judge necessary; but as long as they act the part which they now do, she can very justly be passive and neuter as to their interests; and if her peace be made before theirs, which she will not delay for them, she can, with the same justice, leave them to make their own bargain. This is advantage enough for France, and such a one,

fairly speaking, as a year ago, they would have given more than Tournay, to have been sure of.

They must not, therefore, press us to go farther than this, nor to do any thing which may seem contradictory to what the Queen delivered from the throne; that speech they have always owned as the plan they submitted to, and it varies but little from that brought hither by Gaultier.

In a word, the use which the French will make of the unaccountable obstinacy of the Dutch and the other allies, may, in several respects, and particularly, for ought I know, in this instance of Tournay, give them an opportunity of saving and gaining more than they could have hoped for; and the Queen may, in the present circumstances, contribute passively to this end, but actively she never can in any circumstances.

I think, in my own opinion, and I believe I speak the Queen's upon this occasion, that it were better the French should, in the course of the treaty, declare, that whatever they intended to have given the Dutch, when the Queen spoke from the throne, their conduct has been such, and the situation of
affairs

affairs so altered, that the King is resolved to have Tournay restored to him; I say, I believe this were better than to expect that we should assent to an exposition of the Queen's words, by which her Majesty would yield the town up.

Let the conferences begin as soon as they will, I dare say business will not be very speedily dispatched in them; in the mean time, we shall go on to ripen every thing for a conclusion between us and Savoy, and France and Spain, and this is the true point of view which the French ought to have before their eyes.

You will be very shortly particularly and fully instructed to settle the article of North America, and those points of commerce still undetermined; that done, the Ministers may sign at Utrecht, as soon as they can hear from Lord Lexington.

My Lord Dartmouth writes to you concerning a clamour which our merchants have raised, as if under pretence of not carrying to Lisbon or Barcelona *des provisions de guerre ou de bouche*; they shall be debarred from their usual traffic of corn and fish, which at those places, there are great de-

mands for in time of peace as well as war, and without any consideration of the armies. The difficulty as to Lisbon seems to be removed by the Portuguese submitting to come into the suspension of arms; and he proposes to you an expedient as to Barcelona, but in truth that war must be ended of course now, since the Queen supports it no longer, and the Dutch are recalling their fleet from the Straits. The Duke of Argyle is going immediately now away, and the moment he comes to Minorca, he draws to him every thing belonging to the Queen out of Catalonia. The Imperial troops must, in my opinion, that moment submit, and compound for transportation, and when the war is at an end, I think there can be no pretence to quarrel with us, for carrying our goods to the people of the country.

It is now three o'clock in the morning; I have been hard at work all day, and am not yet enough recovered to bear much fatigue; excuse, therefore, the confusedness of this long scrawl, which is only from Harry to Matt, and not from the Secretary to the Minister.

Your credentials of Minister Plenipoten-
5 tiary

tiary will be sent you, together with your full powers, by the next boat; and before Duke Hamilton * goes, I will move to have you removed to Utrecht, which there will be a natural handle for, as soon as you shall have settled the points of commerce, and in doing that have given the last stroke to the finishing the treaty with France.

Make my compliments to Madam Feriol, and let her know that I have, I hope, put her affair into a way of being finished to her satisfaction. I have spoke very earnestly to Maffei, and have used the proper arguments to him.

Adieu. My pen is ready to drop out of my hand. Believe that no man loves you better, or is more faithfully your servant, than that sleepy fellow

BOLINGBROKE.

I had almost forgot to tell you that the Queen is pleased to discharge the Marquis de Tallard's parole, which you may assure him, with my compliments, of, and give him any signification necessary, in form.

* Appointed Ambassador to the Court of France.

To Mr. Pulteney.

S I R,

Whitehall, September 9th, 1712.

THIS private letter is writ on the subject concerning which you desire her Majesty's orders in yours of the 9th instant, N.S. and these the Queen thought it more proper to convey to you by this way, than by the office dispatch.

The Queen, you easily imagine, hears with great concern of the steps which the King of Denmark has taken in favour of his new mistress; and as her Majesty cannot interpose in matters of this kind, so she will not do any thing which may seem to countenance what she so much, and for so many reasons disapproves. You are, therefore, to conduct yourself as to pay what is due to the title and rank of the Duchess of Sleswick*, without making your court, or appearing particular in your application to her.

I am, Sir, &c.

* The Mistress alluded to.

To the Lords Plenipotentiaries.

MY LORDS,

Whitehall, September 17th, 1712.

I OBSERVE so many ways that the French are desirous to construe what I said, whilst I was in France, by the Queen's order, in another sense than it was meant, or will bear, and by consequence to carry the Queen farther in her engagements to them than she intends to go, that I think proper to acquaint your Lordships, by this private letter, with the proposition which I rested upon, and which as her Majesty had before directed, so she has since approved.

When Monsieur de Torcy pressed me to give him assurances that, in consideration of the concessions of the King, as well in favour of the Duke of Savoy as in other respects, the Queen would on her part assist the King to recover Tournay by the peace, my answer was, that the Queen's conduct in this instance, and in many others with regard to the interests of her allies, must be determined in good measure by theirs, I mean by that of the allies. That if the Dutch

continued refractory, and that, by consequence, the Queen concluded her peace without their concurrence, for which she would no longer wait, she would then think herself obliged to declare that she had done so; she would lay before them the plan of France, as the utmost which had been offered, and would let them know, that for the future she could employ nothing more than her good offices, as the common friend of all parties; but I added, and very often repeated, if the Dutch should come to their senses before the conclusion of the peace with the Queen and France and Spain, and should implore her Majesty's assistance, and submit to her measures, the scene would then be altered—the Queen's compassion, the national pity would be moved; we should have more measures to keep, and should be obliged to act another part.

This principle of action her Majesty still adheres to; and though it be of too nice a nature to be the subject of an office dispatch, yet I thought your Lordships ought not to be ignorant of it; and whenever the French Ministers affirm that we have given
up

up Tournay, this communication will furnish your Lordship with an answer.

I am, my Lords, &c.

I have, since my return from France, refreshed Monsieur de Torcy's memory, and stated this matter to him as I now do to your Lordships.

To Sir Thomas Hanmer.

S I R,

Whitehall, September 17th, 1712.

I HAVE the honour of your letter of the 17th, N.S. from Ghent, and have lost no time in putting your commands in execution. The pass, in the form you desired it, was this day given to your steward, who came to the office, by your order, for it.

Your journey to France can certainly give no offence to any one here, and sure I am it will give great satisfaction to many there. I shall send to Prior the good news, that he may soon have the honour of seeing you; and, if you approve of it, will write the same to some of my friends of that Court, who will be proud to be reckoned yours.

I agree

I agree entirely with you, and I think it is the opinion of every man who serves the Queen, that we are now at the favourable crisis, and that no time ought to be lost in concluding our great work.

My Lord Lexington is gone to Spain; the Cortes are appointed to meet the very beginning of the next month; and I think the forms of the several acts necessary to complete the execution of the article for preventing the union of the two monarchies, are so well settled and understood, that in very few weeks we may receive here and at Utrecht the exemplifications of them; in the mean while, all other matters will be ripened, and I shall hope that two months would suffice to draw us clearly out of a ruinous war and intricate negociation.

I shall add nothing to this letter, but my hearty wishes for your health and prosperity, and my sincere assurances that

I am, Sir, &c.

To

To the Earl of Strafford.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, September 17th, O.S. 1712.

I HAVE just time to tell you, my dear Lord, that I did, by the Queen's command, let Monsieur de Torcy know, that her Majesty would pay Queen Mary* her jointure. I put him out of hopes of any consideration for arrears. Whether this Princess has been attainted or no, I cannot on my memory at present say; but this was, you know, promised by the late King, at the peace of Ryswick, and is certainly just; our mistress thinks it so much so, that she is willing to pay it.

I wonder that any Minister of Holland should have the face to deny that the States interposed with the Queen about our domestic affairs, and particularly about the dissolution of the last Parliament. They did it by their

* The House of Commons, in 1701, passed a bill for the attainder of the Pretender; when it came to the Lords, upon amendment, they included Queen Mary of Modena, acting as regent. This was excepted against by the Commons; it was proposed that Mary's attainder should constitute a separate bill, this was assented to, and the Pretender's attainder passed. The Lords agreed to the bill for attainting the Queen, but it was neglected in the Commons. Her jointure, 50,000 l. as settled at the peace of Ryswick, was provided for by Parliament.

resolution

resolution of the 3d of July, 1710, which Vryberge at an audience, read to the Queen. This was resented, even in those days, though not in the manner it ought to have been; and my Lord Townshend was ordered to take notice of it as a very extraordinary step, and what the Queen hoped the States would not venture upon a second time. The truth is, what had been said by Mr. Boyle * to their Minister, gave but too much encouragement to people as forward to be meddling.

When there are seven Commissioners of the Admiralty, the salaries are of 1000l. a year, but the First Commissioner has usually had, by particular warrant, an increase to his. Adieu, my dear Lord, for ever inviolably,

Your faithful

B.

To Mr. Prior.

September 19th.

THE Queen's indisposition has hindered the doing almost of any business this week,

* Then Secretary of State,

but,

but, I thank God, she is now perfectly recovered. She had some slight feverish impression; however slight it was, you easily imagine our concern. Indeed, there is hardly an instance of any one life to be found in story so important as her Majesty's.

Lord Treasurer promises that Hiberian Gilligan and British Drift shall be dispatched on Monday, and I dare say, he intends it. You will find inclosed such advices as we first received, and which nothing has come since to contradict, of the invasion of our Leeward Islands by the French. This, dear Matt, proves a very untoward *contretemps*. It gives a theme to the Whigs, and serves to awaken passions which were almost lulled asleep. We expected that Cassart's squadron might be gone to the coast of Brazil, or to Surinam, but we never imagined that our Colonies would have been attacked by him, at a time when we were knitting the bands of friendship between the two nations, with all possible industry; could this ill opinion of our new friends have entered into our heads, I do assure you he should have been accompanied by a fleet of the Queen's, which would have kept him in respect.

In

In the letter which I intend to write to Monsieur de Torcy when Drift goes, this point will be mentioned, and I am sure we ought to avail ourselves of it.

Compare this conduct with that of the Queen; the moment that I read her letter from Monsieur de Torcy, by which it appeared that the King of France would oblige his grandson to accept the alternative of quitting one of the two monarchies, her orders were dispatched to the Duke of Ormond, to engage in neither siege nor battle, and she prevented the French even from making the demand. I will not say that this order saved their army from being beat, but I think in my conscience it did. In a word, we depended so much upon the good understanding which we thought established, and we were so earnest to prevent any thing which might break in upon it, that we not only avoided to fortify our squadrons abroad, as we might have done, but we also neglected to put in execution some designs which would have annoyed both French and Spaniards, perhaps more than any that have been effected during the course of this war.

I suppose Lord Dartmouth has told you
that

that two frigates are ordered to Toulon, to attend the Duke of Argyle from thence to Minorca. I believe you will think proper to take some notice of this to Messieurs de Torcy and Pontchartrain *, and prevent any *mésentendu*.

The letters you forwarded to me, with yours of the 20th, were not very material, but your care was equally obliging.

Adieu, make my compliments every where, and believe me entirely and faithfully yours,

BOLINGBROKE.

To Mr. Hill†.

DEAR SIR,

Whitehall, September 19th, 1712.

I MADE my compliments to you some days ago upon your recovery, and do again assure you, that no friend you have could feel a more sensible pain, whilst we thought you in danger, nor sensible pleasure when we heard you was out of it.

As to your journey hither, you will know, before this can reach you, that her Majesty

* Minister of the Marine.

† Then commanding officer at Dunkirk.

gives you leave to come. The eldest officer must command, I suppose, during your absence, and you will, no doubt, take care to settle every thing for the good order of that place, with the French Intendant, and other officers, before your departure.

I am sorry that what relates to the establishment of the garrison, is not entirely finished. It is no fault of mine, but on the contrary, perhaps, I have been too impertinently solicitous about it; but when you are here that matter will quickly receive its decision.

Dear John, for ever your affectionate, &c.

A Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont.

De Whitehall, ce 26me, Septembre, 1712, V.S.

IL n'y a, Monsieur, que votre arrivée à notre cour, qui puisse me donner un plus grand plaisir que celui que j'ai senti en recevant la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire, le 27me du mois passé.

Les circonstances du tems, les commissions dont j'étois chargées, la politesse de la nation, & surtout la bonté du Roi, contribuoient à me procurer les honneurs que
j'ai

j'ai reçu, & que je n'oublierai jamais, pendant le court séjour que j'ai fait en France. Mais, Monsieur, de trouver que vous voulez bien conserver pour moi des sentimens d'amitié, & que même à cette distance vous me comblez de vos faveurs, c'est, je vous l'avoue, tout ce qui me pouvoit arriver de plus flatteur.

Monsieur de Torcy me mande que vous partirez dans peu; je vous attends avec impatience, & j'ose vous promettre que si vous ne trouvez pas chez nous l'habilité des ministres, ni la magnificence de la Cour de France, vous trouverez, au moins, beaucoup de droiture dans les négociations, & vous goûterez des plaisirs, qui, sans faire un grand bruit, ne laissent pas d'être fort sensibles.

Je suis, mon cher Duc, plus que personne au monde, votre, &c.

B.

De Monsieur de Torcy.

A Versailles, le 27^{me} Septembre, 1712.

LA nouvelle de votre maladie, Monsieur, inquiétoit beaucoup tous ceux à qui vous avez permis ici de se croire du nombre de

vos amis, & comme je me flatte, peut-être plus que personne, j'étois aussi plus alarmé, & plus affligé, de ne point recevoir de vos lettres. On peut laisser son cœur loin de soi, & conserver sa santé. La vôtre est nécessaire au public & à l'honneur de ceux qui combattent contre les infidèles ; tant de raisons vous persuaderoient, Monsieur, de l'intérêt sensible que je prends à sa conservation, quand même vous pourriez croire qu'ayant eu l'honneur de vous connoître, je puisse être indifférent à tout ce qui vous regarde.

Je le ferois au bon succès de l'affaire que nous traitons, si je n'avois craint le changement de la correspondance ordinaire. Je ne cachois pas ma peine à Monsieur Prior, lorsqu'il m'apprit, il y a déjà quelques jours, qu'il recevrait désormais les ordres de la Reine par d'autres que par vous. Les meilleures intentions changent beaucoup suivant la manière dont elles sont expliquées, & quelque respect que j'ai pour le choix de sa Majesté Britannique, pardonnez, Monsieur, si je vous dis franchement, qu'ayant goûté le plaisir de traiter avec vous, on doit me pardonner de vous préférer à d'autres Ministres. Vous me rassurez en m'apprenant

nant que notre commerce ne fera point interrompu, & je compte absolument sur cette ouverture de cœur, dont il me semble que je répondrois autant sur l'expérience que j'en ai faite, que sur la promesse que vous m'en renouvellez. Véritablement, je n'en aurois pas été garant envers les Dames si vous eussiez fait ici un plus long séjour. Comme il a suffi pour vous faire voir ce que je pense, c'est à vous, Monsieur, que je me rapporte pour juger de la sincérité & de l'extrême desir que j'ai d'aplanir toutes les difficultés lorsqu'il n'aura pas été possible de les prévenir.

Il est vrai que j'en appréhendois une très considérable du côté de l'Espagne, lorsque Monsieur Prior m'expliqua, pendant les derniers jours du séjour du Roi à Fontainbleau, les ordres donnés à Monsieur de Lexington. Je ne puis croire que les intentions de la Reine eussent été mal expliquées, mais comme j'étois persuadé que sa Majesté Britannique changeroit une résolution qui me paroïssoit opposée aux démarches qu'elle a faites jusqu'à présent, je pris heureusement le parti de ne pas écrire un mot en Espagne de l'incident que les lettres écrites à Mon-

fieur Prior me donnoient lieu de craindre ; ainsi, Monsieur, cette mauvaise interprétation n'aura produit aucun inconvénient, & le mal est léger puisqu'il se réduit à l'inquiétude qu'elle m'a causé.

Les ordres que la Reine donne à Monsieur le Comte de Lexington *, sont conformes à ce que vous me fait l'honneur de me dire. Il sera bien reçu en Espagne, & le Roi Catholique n'oublie rien pour avancer l'accomplissement de tout ce que le Roi a promis en son nom. Ainsi, Monsieur, j'espère qu'il n'y aura point de tems perdu. Je l'appréhendois lorsque Monsieur Prior m'a fait part des observations faites à Oxford †, sur le projet de la renonciation. Il me sembloit que c'étoit vouloir dire en différents termes ce que le Roi d'Espagne déclare bien clairement dans l'acte dont je vous ai remis la copie. Il y avoit même une énumération de nos Princes du sang, qu'il étoit d'une grande conséquence pour la France de ne pas admettre. J'en avois parlé à Monsieur Prior,

* This is a mistake of Torcy, he was only Baron Lexington.

† This relates to the consultation of Civilians at Oxford, respecting the inheritance of the French and Spanish monarchies.

mais Monsieur de Lexington étant parti, je juge, Monsieur, que ces observations n'auront pas été inférées dans son instruction, & je m'en réjouis, car il est à croire que l'original du Roi d'Espagne est présentement en chemin, que le Roi le recevra dans peu de jours, & je vous avoue que je regretterois fort les momens que l'on perdrait pour le renvoyer, & pour en demander un autre qui ne contiendrait pas de clauses plus fortes & plus nettes que celle qu'il renferme.

L'Abbé Gaultier ne me pardonneroit pas ces délais inutiles, car il presse vivement de finir, & peu s'en faut qu'il ne m'impute le retardement de la négociation. S'il falloit me justifier, je vous ferois voir, & vous conviendriez aisément, Monsieur, que le Roi a fait toute la diligence qui dépendoit de lui, & qu'elle a été secondée par le Roi d'Espagne au delà même de ce qu'on pouvoit en espérer. Mais je crois que l'Abbé est animé par son zèle, & peut-être par la crainte de quitter Londres, & de venir encore ici avant l'entière conclusion des affaires.

Vous me rappelez, mot à mot, le projet que vous m'avez communiqué, Monsieur, comme la règle que nous aurions à suivre

pour les conduire à leur perfection. Si je vous ai supplié de me le répéter, n'en accusez pas ma mémoire qui a été fidelle, prenez-vous en seulement à ceux qui doutent, & dont l'inquiétude ébranleroit quelquefois la foi des plus fermes ; une avance indiscrete & artificieuse de la part de la Hollande rappelle la première incrédulité, alors il faut des armes telles que le sont celles que vous me fournissez pour réduire dans les termes de votre projet les démarches qui sont à faire.

C'est pour suivre ce même plan que le Roi ne presse pas le renouvellement des conférences d'Utrecht, & que sa Majesté a demandé une satisfaction un peu forte de cet ivrogne de Rechteren. Il me semble que c'est aussi le moyen de fortifier indirectement les Hollandois dans leur endurcissement, & d'empêcher qu'ils n'entrent, avant la conclusion d'une paix particulière, dans les mesures que le Roi & la Reine ont concertées. Ainsi vos peuples s'animent d'avantage contre l'opiniâtreté d'une république orgueilleuse, qui n'observe plus même le droit de gens à l'égard des Ministres qui traitent la paix chez elle, & de cette manière

nous avançons tous les jours vers le but que nous nous sommes proposés.

Comme il paroît cependant, suivant ce que Monsieur Prior m'a dit depuis l'arrivée du dernier courier, que la Reine croit qu'il est à propos de renouer les conférences d'Utrecht, & comme vous marquez, Monsieur, par votre lettre, qu'il est bon de trouver un tempérament pour terminer toute dispute entre les Plénipotentiaires du Roi & ceux de la Grande Bretagne; sa Majesté consent d'ordonner à ses Ministres à Utrecht de faire à ceux de la Reine la déclaration dont je vous envoie la copie. Je crois que c'est le meilleur tempérament qu'il y ait à prendre, pour garder, aussi long-tems qu'il sera nécessaire, le secret des intentions de la Reine; & en même-tems pour assurer que la paix sera traitée sur le plan que le Roi envoya à Londres, au mois d'Avril dernier.

Si sa Majesté Britannique, croit à propos de renouer les conférences d'Utrecht, il est nécessaire qu'elle informe Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de ses intentions, sur la déclaration que je vous envoie. Ceux du Roi agiront de concert avec eux sur ce sujet. Mais avant que de faire aucune démarche,

il faut nécessairement que les Etats-Généraux donnent satisfaction sur l'affaire de Rechteren.

Le Roi a toujours compté, qu'ils auroient peine de la donner aussi forte que sa Majesté l'a demandée ; il ne convient pas cependant qu'elle s'en désiste, parce que certainement les ennemis de la paix en tire-roient avantage. Mais le Roi donnera volontiers à la considération de la Reine, une partie de la réparation que sa Majesté avoit demandée, étant bien persuadée, que sa Majesté Britannique, aura les égards qu'il convient à l'offense & au marque du respect qu'une République comme celle d'Hollande doit au Roi.

J'attends, Monsieur, par le premier courrier, les douze passeports que vous m'annoncez pour les vaisseaux que le Roi d'Espagne veut envoyer aux Indes, & je vous en remercie par avance.

Ce seroit allonger ma lettre, & vous ennuyer inutilement, que de vous écrire sur tous les points que nous avons traité, Monsieur Prior & moi, & dont il vous rendra compte ; je lui ai communiqué un avis que j'ai reçu, au sujet du séjour que le Chevalier doit

doit faire hors du royaume ; vous savez que c'est par le moyen de la Reine qu'il doit recevoir les sûretés qu'il attend, elles lui sont absolument nécessaires, car il est certain que les partis ennemis sont tous les jours aux portes de la ville où il doit aller.

J'ai aussi averti Monsieur Prior des offres secrètes qui sont faites à l'Electeur de Bavière. Vous savez, Monsieur, à quel point le Roi s'intéresse aux avantages de ce Prince, & je suis persuadé que vous avez rendu compte à la Reine de la manière dont le Roi vous en parla encore, lorsque vous prîtes congé de sa Majesté ; l'affliction de l'Electeur a été grande lorsqu'il n'a plus eu lieu de douter de la disposition de la Sicile, & ses instances, depuis votre départ, en ont été plus vives. Comme il espère toujours que la Reine ne lui fera pas contraire, qu'il croit même que sa Majesté fera bien aise de contribuer à ses avantages, il souhaite qu'elle soit informée de ce qu'il demande pour le dédommager, autant que les conjonctures présentes le peuvent permettre, de la cession du Haut Palatinat, & de celle de son droit sur la partie la plus considérable des Pays-Bas.

Bas. Je vous envoie Monsieur, le projet qu'il en a dressé.

J'ai envoyé à Madame la Duchesse d'Elbeuf, la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser pour elle. Comme elle est malade, assez considérablement, je ne compte pas d'avoir de réponse avant le départ du courier.

Il me reste, Monsieur, à vous remercier des marques sensibles que vous avez bien voulu me donner de votre amitié, en parlant à la Reine des intérêts de Monsieur le Duc de St. Pierre ; il doit tout attendre d'une protection aussi puissante, & pour moi, Monsieur, je connois que je tiens de vous les marques de bonté dont vous m'assurez de la part de sa Majesté Britannique, & que je voudrois pouvoir mériter par le profond respect que j'ai pour elle.

Vous m'apprenez à faire des excuses d'une aussi longue lettre, & quoique ce soit avec plus de raison de ma part que de la vôtre, je vous assure que je me suis peu aperçu de ce défaut en vous écrivant, & que le tems m'a passé si vite que je crois encore ma lettre courte. Je souhaiterois qu'elle vous le parût aussi, & je vous supplie de
lire

lire sans impatience les protestations très sincères que je vous fais d'être avec un attachement très véritable & très constant, Monsieur, votre, &c.

DE TORCY.

Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont presse vivement les ouvriers de Paris, pour être plutôt en état de vous aller voir. C'est le seul avantage que je lui envie.

Je me servirai une autrefois de la permission que vous m'avez donné de vous écrire d'une autre main. Je ne fais si la Reine a parlé au Baron de Forstner au sujet du séjour du Chevalier à Bar ?

A Monsieur de Torcy.

MONSIEUR,

De Whitehall, ce 26me Septembre, V.S. 1712.

LE dernier courier ayant été obligé de rester quelques jours à Calais par des vents contraires je n'ai reçu que hier l'honneur de votre lettre du 27me, N.S.

La Reine est au Château de Windsor, ainsi je ne la pourrai voir que demain, de sorte qu'il faut que je renvoie à la semaine prochaine

prochaine ce que j'aurai l'honneur de vous dire par son ordre, mais en attendant je n'ai pas voulu manquer de profiter de la poste de ce soir, pour vous remercier de toutes vos bontés, & pour vous renouveler les assurances d'une amitié inviolable & éternelle.

Les instructions de Monsieur de Lexington, sont certainement conformes à ce que je vous ai dit, & les intentions de sa Majesté n'ont jamais varié sur cet article. Quoique l'Espagne, aussi-bien que la France, soient dans le département de l'autre secrétaire, j'ai pourtant, à la réquisition de ce Ministre avant son départ, parcouru avec lui tous les ordres qu'il avoit reçu, & je crois pouvoir vous assurer qu'il étoit en quittant la cour au fait de toutes choses, & dans des sentimens tels que vous l'auriez souhaité. Il est vrai que les observations faites par les jurisconsultes ont été mises à la marge du projet de l'acte de renonciation qu'on lui avoit remis, & celle sur laquelle Monsieur Lexington doit principalement appuyer, est l'énumération des Princes du sang de France.

Je voudrois de tout mon cœur, qu'on n'eut jamais consulté avec ces avocats chicaneurs, & pour autant que je suis capable de juger,

*

les

les clauses qui ont été dressées en Espagne sont aussi fortes & aussi nettes que celles que ces Messieurs souhaitent d'insérer. Mais je vous avoue en même-tems que je ne comprends pas trop les objections contre cette énumération, comme je les trouve expliquées dans la dépêche de Monsieur Prior au Comte de Dartmouth. Il est certain que dans un acte qui fait le fondement de la paix, & qui doit conserver la tranquillité de l'Europe, dans les siècles à venir, il est beaucoup plus pardonnable d'admettre des expressions inutiles, que de négliger le moindre mot qui puisse ou éclaircir ou confirmer.

Je me réjouis de ce que les armes que je vous ai fournies vous aient été utiles ; je m'étonne seulement que vous en ayez eu besoin.

Il me semble que Messieurs vos infidèles doivent avoir bien mauvaise grâce, quand ils s'opposent à un Ministre qui seul, & sans leur participation, a conduit les choses à un point qu'ils n'osoient espérer il y a quelque tems.

Je croyois les passeports que le Roi d'Espagne a demandés pour les vaisseaux qui vont aux Indes, déjà à Madrid, mais on vient de

de me dire, que le Sieur Gilligan, Commissaire que la Reine envoie en Espagne pour les affaires de commerce, en a été chargé ; il partira au premier jour, & j'espère que ce délai ne fera d'aucun préjudice.

Puisque je parle des Indes, vous voulez bien, Monsieur, que je vous dise naïvement, que l'invasion de nos colonies par un escadre de vos vaisseaux est un contretems qui fait plus de mal que le butin que vous en rapporterez ne vous fera de bien.

On a déjà parlé au Ministre de Lorraine touchant la fureté du Chevalier, & il en a écrit à son maître. Je ne manquerai pas Dimanche prochaine de lui demander quelle réponse il a eu.

Par le Secrétaire de Monsieur Prior, j'aurai l'honneur de vous écrire Lundi ou Mardi prochaine. Je suis, Monsieur, votre, &c.

B.

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Verfailles, 17-28th September, 1712.

GIVE me leave to thank you from my soul for your explicit, friendly, long letter,
of

of the 10th, O.S. as Monsieur de Torcy does for that which accompanied it; I was so well directed by the lights you held out, that we have avoided two shoals, upon which, without any figure, we were very likely to have run: that of alterations and additions to be made to the instrument of renunciation, and Dr. Henchman's* opinion, upon which Monsieur de Torcy and I were 'fending and proving, replying and rejoining, four days, is, God be praised! all over, by Lord Lexington's going into Spain, and this Court being entirely satisfied in the instructions which he will receive, and the good sense with which he will execute them: in the main, you and I know, that these people mean the renunciation should be as strong as we can ask it; and every man knows that our advantage consists in the quick execution of it. Your letter upon this head saved me from the politic gripings which are less tolerable than those I had at the same time from a *cholera morbus*, which I hope is going off; as to the other point, that of our being at a full stop at Utrecht, you will see I presume, by Mon-

* The Civilian.

fieur

sieur de Torcy's letter, that I comprehended, and made him comprehend that I did so, the ground upon which her Majesty would stand, and the utmost that France ought to expect from her, in relation to the barrier for the Dutch, or any other part of her speech. I repeated to him, that I was left here to defend this principle, and to inculcate this doctrine, which you had planted, and that he must help us in this point, or any other of the like nature that may arise: upon the whole, he drew up the substance of what he sends you, and having showed it to the King, sends it as an instruction to the French Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht, which I hope has effectually brought us off, and set the conferences there on foot again, in the manner you desired.

The referring the affair of Rechteren, and the satisfaction which he thereupon shall have, to the Queen's arbitrage, was a point with which I very easily closed; since besides that it gives her Majesty a singular honour, it furnishes her likewise with an opportunity of restraining or forwarding the conferences as she pleases.

I refer you to my letter to Lord Dartmouth,

mouth, for all mercantile and ship news, desiring you to adjust with him, and send me your resolution upon the points which Monsieur Ponchartrain has writ to Monsieur de Torcy, and I have transmitted to England.

The Dutch most certainly are searching a peace more than ever, by the means of the Elector of Bavaria, to whom they would have the Low Countries assigned; upon a supposition that, in that case, he would understand the word *barrière* in another sense than they think the Emperor will understand it, and leave them in the full and eternal possession of the towns where they now are; by which means, you see, they will expound dependencies, chatelenies, and reunions, as well as other people. The two things visible in these *tentatives* of our good allies are, their restless desire of extending their *frontière*, and their utter hatred to the neighbourhood of their old masters of Austria. The use (you will see by what Monsieur de Torcy sends you) that Bavaria makes of this is, that, telling it to France that they may transmit it to England, that Prince may make himself as much merit as he can to engage her Majesty to help him in the ensuing treaty of peace.

As to the Chevalier, he expects that we should furnish him with passports from the Emperor; though, by the way, not one thing that young man can do, nor one word he can say, but will be told by Lorrain* to the Emperor, and from that Court will be communicated to the Whigs in England, to which pray have an eye.

I am sure Monsieur de Torcy presses you to resume your correspondence with us; it is little for me to say, after him, how much the service must suffer, and how many incidents must needs arise from its being either put into a new channel, or divided into two; but—*Ich dien*.

I hope that beast Drift is on his journey; what detains him, I rather wonder than guess, since, by your kindness to me, the powers and instructions which he brings must have been ready some days. I do not pretend to thank you for your great friendship to me any other ways, than by assuring you I will always study to deserve it. Adieu.
—*ἔρρα' Φα.*

I am, eternally, your Lordship's, &c.

M. PRIOR.

* Meaning the Duke.

I hope

I hope Madame Calandrine is safely arrived at London ; I need not say that I served her as far as I could, and erected myself before my time into a Minister, gave her passports and orders accordingly, which you must pardon.

I just now hear that Monsieur Voisin* has given the King an account that our garrison at Dunkirk is very sickly, occasioned by our soldiers eating cucumbers, and other such trash.

I hear nothing from Utrecht, but from my friends here ; pray let them write to me. Monsieur de Torcy has given du Quesne's and Wyn's case to Monsieur Pontchartrain, to whom you know I cannot yet address myself ; and as soon as I can I will solicit them. Having heard nothing from him, I judge that the part of your letter to him which takes it for granted that *merchands* may reciprocally, during the suspension, go and come freely in and out of any part of Britain or France, is mutually agreed on.

I have sent passports 480.

* War-secretary.

From Mr. Prior.

MY DEAR LORD.

Paris, September 20th, N.S. 1712.

I FORWARD a letter from Mr. Chetwynd, at Genoa, to Lord Dartmouth; I send him likewise the copy of one writ by Monsieur Pontchartrain, to Monsieur de Torcy, the substance of which I have already writ to Lord Dartmouth at large by the last exprefs, and daily expect his orders upon the whole. But all things from England being uncertain, I venture this by way of Dunkirk, and hope it will come safe. What I trouble you with, is, you see, a parcel of letters which have been brought hither, and were left during my writing from Fontainebleau; they are, I believe, of no great worth, and might have staid on this side for ever; indeed they had like to have done so, for your friend Matt has, for fifty hours past, had a *trousse-galante dans toutes les formes*; and I was of opinion that I was going *ad Palimedes, ad Ulysses, & Heroes*. I have changed that opinion these twelve hours past, and I hope to live with Lord Treasurer and Lord Bolingbroke, who are e'en

as

as good company. Why do not I hear from you all?

I am so weak I can hardly hold my pen, to tell you, that I am ever, my dear Lord,

Your's, &c.

M. PRIOR.

Your's of the 29th deserves a more particular acknowledgment than my present indisposition permits me to give you. I hope you are perfectly recovered, which, I assure you, will be as grateful news as I can possibly hear. Adieu, my Lord. I am ill, and in great pain, but I think the worst is past.

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Verfailles, September 19-30th, 1712.

THE inclosed I received to-day, from Monsieur de Torcy; by it your Lordship will see (what I am very glad of) that our Commander-in-chief received your Lordship's orders writ from hence, so that our duplicates are superfluous, and the Duke of Argyle will find matters on that side adjusted as they should be.

H 3

I send

I send this by the way of Dunkirk. I expect every day to hear from you, and as I have writ a great deal to you, two days since, by Hayward, I believe I shall have as much more to write to you, as soon as I shall have received an express and Drift from England, both which I daily expect.

The King goes to Ramboüillet to the Count de Thoulouse*, on Monday, stays there all the next week. I stay here till the Court goes, that I may lose no time in imparting to Monsieur de Torcy what I may from you.

I am ever, with great friendship,

Your Lordship's, &c.

M. PRIOR.

The King told me yesterday at his dinner, that he was glad to see me so well recovered. Can I die? and after all is it not *dans le grand?*

* Legitimated son of Louis XIV. by Madame de Montespan, and Grand Admiral of France.

To Mr. Prior.

DEAR MATT,

Whitehall, September 26th, O.S. 1712.

BOTH your letters of the 17th, with the paquet inclosed, came to my hands yesterday, and I once more heartily congratulate your recovery.

I thought it was proper to keep Drift three days, that he might take your powers, and other necessary papers along with him; but I confess I do not see what occasion there was to keep him three weeks, that he might take Gilligan along with him, who is able to find his way by himself. Thus, however, the case stands, and I cannot help it. I believe they will set forward next week without fail.

I perceive by your letter to Dartmouth, and by Monsieur de Torcy's to me, that the single point to which the French object very strongly, in the amendments prepared by Dr. Henchman, to the act of Philip's renunciation, is the enumeration of the Princes of the blood in France. For my own part, I have all along despised the wisdom of these civilians, and thought their

H 4

caution

caution chicane, but others have not been of my mind. However, I own my weakness, and confess that I cannot find any force in the French reasoning deduced in your dispatch to my brother Secretary.

First, because Philip is not in the execution of this act to be looked upon abstractedly as King of Spain, but is to be considered as a Prince of the House of France, and very nearly allied to the crown of that kingdom.

Secondly, because when Philip excludes himself and his children (if this exclusion signifies any thing) the Duke of Berry and his sons, and the Duke of Orleans and his sons, have in them that very right which was in him, each in his turn, after the Dauphin, and therefore no new right is so much as pretended to be created; but that which really subsists is particularly specified.

Thirdly, because in the agreement for a suspension of arms in Flanders, this devolution to the Dukes of Berry and Orleans is in the same manner mentioned; and, which is still more apposite, it is, in the Queen's speech, spoke of in the same manner, and the French have been parties to one, and never objected to the other.

Fourthly,

Fourthly, because Monsieur de Torcy agrees that Philip shall say that he consents *qu'on regarde ce droit comme passé & transmis à celui qui se pourra trouver plus proche en degré immédiat après le Roi, &c.*

Now who are *en degré immédiat après le Roi*, but the Dauphin and the two Dukes above-mentioned; and why may they not be specifically named, as well as included in general words? I wish, with all my heart, the amendment had never been proposed; but on the other hand, France must take care not to create a suspicion that they design to evade this renunciation, as they have done former acts of the same sort.

I think the instructions sent to the French Ministers at Utrecht, will get over the rub which lay in our way, and you do extremely right to keep the French to the principle established.

By the working of the Dutch, I am apt to think we shall soon hear them speak another language. As to their treaty with Bavaria, it is an intelligence of a very extraordinary nature, but not unlikely. I do not see how any measure which they may take of this sort, can hurt the Queen; on the contrary,
I think

I think I see how she may improve it to her advantage : but you know we can speak no language but this, that all the Low Countries are to go to the Emperor, subject to the barrier of Holland.

Pray give the inclosed to Madame de Feriol, with many compliments. Assure Madame de Torcy, that she wrongs an honest heart, and that Harry is incapable of forgetting her, or his obligations to her.

The garrison and town of Dunkirk have been extreme sickly, but, with Monsieur de Voisin's leave, it is not to be attributed to the trash which our soldiers eat, who live at least as well as theirs ; the poor devils found the distemper, and did not bring it there.

Monsieur de Pontchartrain is satisfied upon his queries, and I transmit to you two cases, which I complain of to him.

Adieu, ever your faithful,

BOLINGBROKE.

Drift shall bring you another epistle.

To

To the Earl of Strafford.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, September 26, O.S. 1712.

THE letters of the 4th of October, N.S. came this morning to our hands, and although I cannot take upon me to give an answer to the dispatches of business, till I have laid them before the Queen, yet I must not let the post of to-night go away without carrying your Lordship my sincere acknowledgments, and hearty thanks for your private letter of the same date.

I know very well how impossible it is to act an honest and resolute part, especially in such times and such circumstances as ours, without creating multitudes of enemies. This I am therefore prepared for, and I protest to you, that the approbation of one man like yourself, gives me more inward satisfaction, than the clamour of a whole faction gives me disturbance.

I own my ignorance naturally; either I never knew, or it has slipped out of my memory, that King James's widow was attainted.

Your affairs shall be taken all due care
of,

of, and my own concerns will never sit so near my heart, as those of so honourable and kind a friend.

We received letters yesterday from Versailles; mine from Monsieur de Torcy, are of the 27th September, N.S. wherein he agrees to the manner in which I stated the Queen's measures with respect to her allies; says, he had not forgot that I told literally the same thing at Fontainebleau, but that he was desirous to have it stated again by me, that he might arm himself against such of his own court as are capricious and distrustful.

This point being settled, I think, my Lord, our road is straight and clear before us. If the Dutch do come heartily into the measures of peace, and fix reasonable terms to conclude upon, we must join with them, as France is prepared to expect. If they continue either obstinate or uncertain, we must proceed and finish our work without staying for their concurrence, as France has been promised. But, my Lord, above all things, take care that they be explicit and particular. Nothing is more desirable, than that our peace and theirs, should be made

*

at

at the same time ; but nothing is more fatal than that they should affect to repent, without doing it in earnest, spin out the negotiation, and hurt us more by an appearance of submission, than they can do by open and direct opposition.

The Elector of Bavaria pretends to have had overtures from the States ; and you will find, by my other dispatch, still hopes to keep part of the Spanish Netherlands, notwithstanding the positive refusal which, in the Queen's name, I gave to that demand when I was in France.

Your Lordship will please to communicate these particulars to my Lord Privy Seal, and to believe me, with much respect,

Yours, &c.

To Lord Lexington.

MY LORD,

Windfor Castle, September 30, 1712.

I CANNOT neglect the opportunity, which the departure of Mr. Gilligan gives me, of writing to your Lordship, as well to recommend myself to the continuance of your favour, as this gentlemen to your protection.

tion. He is so perfect a master of the Spanish trade, in all its parts, and has so many habitudes, especially among the mercantile people in that country, that I hope his endeavours will extremely contribute to the settling of our interests in Spain and the West Indies, on a much better foot than they have ever been.

I trouble your Lordship on no head of business, imagining that this would only be to repeat what you will be informed of from the other office.

By our last accounts from France, we hear that they expected Philip's renunciation might be actually on the road. This appears like great forwardness to conclude, and I hope the same spirit will show itself in every other part of the negociation. Your Lordship will be glad to hear, as I take it for granted you have by this time, from Lord Dartmouth, that if this act should have been dispatched, you are not to insist to have the whole overhauled again, which would lose a considerable time, for the sake of that amendment of the Civilians, wherein the Princes of the Bourbon line are specifically enumerated, nor for any other of the marginal

ginal notes. If the act is not passed, I suppose you will find no great difficulty in prevailing to add any thing which may seem to strengthen a renunciation which it is so much the interest of Spain to have made good.

I have nothing farther to add, but my hearty wishes for your Lordship's health, pleasure, and success, and my earnest desire that you would honour me with your commands whenever you think I can be of use to you, and my sincere assurances that

I am, your Lordship's, &c.

To Mr. Prior.

S I R,

Windsor-Castle, 29th September, O.S. 1712.

I WRIT to you at the close of last week not very fully instructed, but this dispatch will be of more consequence, and I believe, before you come to the end of it, you will observe that we are now at the crisis of our negociation, and that the future peace of Europe does very much depend on the measures which the Queen shall think fit to take.

When, in order to keep my word with you, I take upon me to explain any thing in

4 which

which I apprehend there may be any mistake, you must forgive me if I am too particular in speaking to some points, which you may, perhaps, receive in a very clear light from the other office.

A clerk of the council was ordered to attend last night at the Cabinet, with a declaration drawn by the Attorney-general, and intended to have been published for the release of all French and Spanish prisoners, whether taken at sea or land; but upon comparing this draught with that which was sent from France, the Queen found the latter to be confined to soldiers only, and to such a degree that it even specifies the particular forts.

This made it impossible for her Majesty to declare a general release of all French prisoners whatsoever; at the same time, she was unwilling to make a distinction in so formal a manner, between the sea and land prisoners, wherein the principal care would have appeared to be taken of the latter, besides, her Majesty looked upon it to be as much the interest of France as hers, that the prison doors should be reciprocally set open,

open, and all prisoners, except hostages, be at once restored to their liberty.

These considerations determined her Majesty not to publish any declaration at all.

But, in the mean time, her orders have been given for the release of all French, and will be extended to Spaniards too, with the reserve abovementioned. She makes no doubt but that the French will rectify what seems to have been only a mistake, and in that confidence she takes this measure, and depends on you to have the matter set right.

I came from London on Saturday, and the Duke of Argyle, as I suppose, set out yesterday; you must without doubt have already heard of his Grace's coming towards you, and will shortly see him. I take it that the chief, if not the only business, which he has at the Court of France, is, to concert with the King's ministers the manner in which the Imperial troops are to evacuate Catalonia; and I believe upon this occasion, it is necessary that I should say something to you of the Queen's views and apprehensions, and of some steps which she has made relating to this affair.

Her Majesty's design is to put an end to

the war in that country, and as she withdraws herself from it, so she will, according to her promises, assist in retransporting the German troops from thence. Her apprehensions are of two sorts: first, she is afraid (though that fear is a kinder thing than the conduct of the Imperial Court deserves at her hands) that they may *opiniâtre* a mistaken scheme of politics to their ruin. They have, you know, been all this year pouring troops into Spain, fondly imagining to make it, by keeping an army there, worth the while of Philip and his grandfather, to give them some equivalent for withdrawing themselves out of it. Whereas we have all along judged that as long as the Germans disagreed with her Majesty, such a project was very chimerical, that they would meet with the common fate of bullies, and be kicked out of doors; in short, that the moment the Queen ceased to act herself, and to support them, the sending troops thither, was only multiplying of hostages, and that instead of gaining any thing for abandoning the country, they must be glad at last to compound for liberty to quit it with safety.

Another

Another apprehension the Queen has, is the use which the Emperor may make of this body of troops when they come from Catalonia. He is already enough inclined to quarrel with the Duke of Savoy, and the wind which he has got of the intended disposition of Sicily to that Prince, will be apt to blow the coals. How practicable it may be for him to make any attempt on that kingdom, I am not able to say; but there is ground enough to fear that he may attack his Royal Highness in Lombardy. I mention nothing of any enterprize which may be expected from the Emperor against the Venetians, Florence, or any other State of Italy, since these are not so immediately our concern as the former suppositions.

In these views, and under these apprehensions, the steps which her Majesty has taken are these: first, she proposed to the Imperial Ministers at Utrecht, the withdrawing in time the Empress and the German forces out of Catalonia, and when these Ministers received the proposition with an air truly Austrian, her Plenipotentiaries represented to them in very plain terms, that they are not in a condition of bargaining, and that

if they do not come to a prudent resolution very speedily, they may chance to pay dear for their folly.

In order to illustrate this matter the better, and to enable you to make the French ministers enter rightly into the Queen's sense, I send you extracts of my first letter to her Plenipotentiaries on this subject, of their answer to me, and of my reply to them.

The Duke of Argyle will propose upon this head, that if the Germans are willing to evacuate Catalonia, till such time as they have an opportunity of doing it, which cannot be immediately, the Spaniards shall not molest them.

By my last dispatch, you see what my opinion was of the objections made by the French ministers to the amendments offered by Dr. Henchman for the form of Philip's renunciation, wherein the Princes of the Blood of France are enumerated. I am now to tell you, that when this point was debated last night before the Queen, I found all the Lords concurred with me; and some of them inclined to think the amendment more necessary, on account of the earnestness

ness shown by the French Court to have it omitted. However, having observed in Monsieur de Torcy's letter to me of the 27th instant, this expression, *car il est à croire que l'acte original du Roi d'Espagne est présentement en chemin, que le Roi le recevra en peu de jours, &c.*—I moved, and with a great deal of difficulty prevailed, to have a private instruction sent to Lord Lexington, that in case the act was passed, he should not insist to have the whole over-hauled for the sake of this alteration; otherwise, that he should endeavour to have it inserted. It was however the sense of the council, that even submitting to this expedient should not be communicated to the Ministers of France.

Having at last got Mr. Gilligan's instructions, and his other papers dispatched, I take it for granted, that he sets out tomorrow, with Drift, for Paris. I have ordered the boat to stay for them at Dover, and I send these packets to London, to go by their conveyance. As Mr. Gilligan is a man of a good deal of merit in his sphere, and is employed by the Queen in an affair of the utmost importance, as well as to the reputa-

tion of her Ministers, as to the present and future advantages of her kingdoms, I make no doubt but that during his short stay at Paris, he will have all the countenance, support, information, and recommendation, which you can give him.

Your friend Drift brings your letters of credence, and your powers, and these will soon be followed by a scheme of the lowest expedient which we can admit of upon the subject of North America, and upon those articles of the treaty of commerce which are still in dispute between us and France. My notion is, that we lose no time, by delaying to confer with the French Ministers upon these heads: the matter is already extremely trite; we are both well apprized of our respective interests, and neither side has much reason to hope to outreach the other. Debating would, therefore, be of little use; we ought rather to reduce our demands as low as the expectations of our trading people will allow us, and then propose them to the French as so many *ultima*; who will then have their choice, either to accept them to secure the peace, or to refuse them at the expence of keeping the
treaty

treaty open, and exposing the negociation to new hazards.

Though I was glad to find by Brigadier Price's* letter, that he had received the Queen's orders which I sent him from Fontainbleau, and that he was preparing to put them in execution, I was at the same time concerned to see that Terragona was not garrisoned by her Majesty's troops, though it had been fortified at her expence, nay, though her hospital and all her stores were in the place. But this is of a piece with the rest of that conduct which we did not think fit to change, till we were almost ruined by pursuing it.

These particulars being out of the way, I must now give you an account of what is working in Holland; of the application made from thence to the Queen, and of her Majesty's thoughts upon the present conjuncture.

You will see by the inclosed† what I write to Monsieur de Torcy; you will please to enforce my arguments, and endeavour to show the French Ministers, that as the

* Commanding in Catalonia.

† Copy of letter to de Torcy, 30th September.

Queen's behaviour is clean and frank, as she has done more in order to force a peace than they could have expected, so it will become them not to hazard the continuance of the war for a town more or less; still giving this turn to all the instances, that her Majesty is not departing from any facility she has hitherto shown, but concerting in confidence what may be most eligible for our mutual interest, and the common good of Europe. You know the principle laid down is, that the proceedings of the Queen's allies gave advantages to the French which she could never have given them; and if things continued in this situation till we were ready to sign, that the peace should be concluded without staying for the concurrence of any of our allies; but if the confederates, and especially the Dutch, should, before the conclusion of our treaty, come into the Queen's measures, desire what is past may be forgot, and show a sincere intention of acting in concert with her Majesty; that, in such case, she could not avoid espousing their interest, and taking them along with her. The States of Holland are likely to choose the latter turn, and have
4 already

already made several advances towards it. What has passed at Utrecht you will see by the inclosed papers, the originals of which were brought to me last night by express, from the Queen's Plenipotentiaries*.

On Saturday, as I was setting out for this place, the *Heer van Borsele*† came to my office, and made a proposition much like that of Buys, and ushered it in with the same sort of preamble. The Grand Pensionary has writ to my Lord Treasurer; and the aim of these people seems to be, either to restore their union with the Queen, and by her means to make their peace with France and Spain, or else, by publishing how far in consideration of her, they have receded from their first demands, and by sub-

* The British Plenipotentiaries informed the Secretary of State, that the States-General had declared they were disposed to comply with her Majesty, and to desire her good offices with France; particularly that Tournay and Condé might be left to them, as part of their barrier, without which they could not be safe; that the Elector of Bavaria might not be suffered to retain a town in the Netherlands, which would be as bad for Holland as if those places were in the hands of France: therefore they proposed that Luxembourg, Namur, Charleroy, and Nieuport, might be delivered to the Emperor; that the French might not insist on excepting the four species of goods out of the tariff of 1664; and that if her Majesty could prevail with France to satisfy the States on these articles, they would be ready to submit in all the rest.

† The Dutch Ambassador.

mitting,

mitting, in terms of the greatest humility, to move the compassion of mankind towards them, and some degree of indignation towards us, as if we were too partial in favour of France.

I think you should not appear to Monsieur de Torcy to know the contents of my letter to him, at least of this part of it ; but you should take all occasions of showing him, that if the Dutch do submit, we must not continue in this strangeness towards them, nor entirely decline to favour their interests ; that Tournay is not worth the peace, and though the King may be desirous to save it, yet if he can make an end at once, and restore the tranquillity of Europe by yielding it, that it will not become his professions to insist too long upon it.

You will farther insinuate, that the Queen's speech has been so openly acknowledged by the French, as a plan they approved, that it will be hard to go back from the terms of it ; and that you doubt it is impossible to distinguish themselves into a right to retain Tournay by that paragraph thereof which relates to the barrier of Holland.

We

We do not expect that France will immediately give up a town which they are for so many reasons fond of, no more than we expect that the Dutch will immediately and expressly abandon their demands of Condé; but this manner of opening ourselves to Monsieur de Torcy, is agreeable to the friendship which we profess to each other, and think you can hardly miss discovering what his and the other Ministers' intention at the bottom is.

I remember he spoke to me of bringing the Dutch in as a very capital point, and such no doubt it is, for the rest of the allies cannot so much as make a show of war.

The King's life, the Queen's life, and other considerations, will occur to you, at least as fast, perhaps faster than to me; but there is one expectation which perhaps the French may entertain, and which you must cure if you find the smallest symptom of it.—They may be apt to reason thus: let us keep off from closing with Holland; we have the winter before us; the British Ministers will be afraid to meet the Parliament without closing the negociation first; and therefore they will either oblige the
Dutch

Dutch to yield Tournay, or they will finish without the Dutch, if we are stiff. Now this logic is certainly false; for if it comes once to be known, and it is not possible the secret should be kept, that Holland would have concluded their peace at the same time as the Queen, provided they might have had Tournay, we shall not dare to leave them behind us; and I must tell you, on this occasion, that some of our best friends among the Tories would, in such a case, join to condemn us. If, therefore, the Dutch should put their agreeing or not agreeing upon so short an issue as one town, which they will say they give up so much to keep, I doubt the consequence of the French refusing to comply would be a necessity on the Queen to appear on the side of Holland, and very probably before the sitting of Parliament to drive the matter to an issue, and then appeal to her people.

By what I have said, you enter, I am sure, into our sentiments, and into the style you are to use with Monsieur de Torcy.

I have got at last the affair of the Griffon* compounded, not without very great

* A French East-Indiaman.

difficulty,

difficulty, though the sum to be paid to the captors is so large as 35,000 l.; the ship was plainly prize, and the pass sent over hither might have been proved to have been numerically one of those delivered at Fontainebleau four days after the Griffon was in Sir Thomas Hardy's power, though Gaultier was ready to swear that he received it some months before; which part of the Abbot has, I confess to you, done him no good in my opinion.

Adieu, dear Matt, I am for ever your's,

BOLINGBROKE.

A Monsieur de Torcy.

MONSIEUR,

Du Château de Windsor,
le 30me Septembre, V.S. 1712.

JE suis venu ici Samedi passé, & j'ai eu l'honneur de lire à la Reine une partie de votre dernière lettre du 27me Septembre. J'aurois à présent auprès de moi, les matériaux d'une très longue dépêche, si pour vous épargner autant qu'il m'est possible de la peine parmi les grandes occupations qui vous accablent, je n'avois écrit fort en détail à Monsieur Prior. Comme il est assez heureux

reux pour vous faire fort souvent sa cour, il ne manquera pas de choisir les quarts d'heures les moins incommodes pour vous parler sur les divers articles.

La Reine trouve que la déclaration que Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de France feront, doit ôter tout le scrupule des siens, & applanir la difficulté qu'ils avoient formé, & qu'ils envisagoient comme très grande. Je leur écris dans ce sens, & ces Ministres parleront conformément aux vôtres, avec lesquels ils concerteront en même-tems la satisfaction qui doit être donnée sur l'affaire de cet ivrogne de Rechteren.

Sa Majesté m'a aussi commandé de leur faire part de la règle qu'elle a établie, & qu'elle a promise au Roi Très Chrétien d'observer dans le cours des négociations. Elle est fort aisé de voir qu'il n'y a point eu de mésentendu sur cet article, & que vous avez compris le plan qu'elle prétend suivre avec la dernière exactitude, de la manière que j'ai eu ordre de l'expliquer, quand j'étois en France, dans toutes les occasions, & principalement dans des conjonctures comme celle-ci, où les parties qui traitent sont du premier rang parmi les hommes, & où

où les points dont il s'agit font de la dernière importance au bonheur du monde ; la meilleure chose qu'on puisse faire est de ne rien laisser d'obscur ou d'équivoque dans les termes dont on se sert, & dans les principes qu'on veut suivre. C'est ce que me semble nous avons fait jusques-ici, & peut-être n'y a-t-il point d'exemple d'une négociation conduite comme celle-ci, où les travailleurs de part & d'autre n'ont rien à se reprocher. Cela nous doit être d'une grande consolation, & nous faire bien augurer du succès de notre grande ouvrage.

Le langage des Hollandois à l'égard de l'Electeur de Bavière, est, à ce que je vois, bien différent. Car ils paroissent, quand ils nous parlent, résolus de ne lui laisser aucune place dans les Pays-Bas Espagnols.

Vous pouvez être sûr que j'ai rendu compte à la Reine de la manière dont le Roi me parla sur le chapitre de ce Prince infortuné, & je ne doute pas que vous n'ayez communiqué à sa Majesté Très Chrétienne les sentimens de la Reine sur ce même sujet, lesquels j'ai eu l'honneur de vous expliquer, & que je ne trouve pas être changés depuis mon retour ; si vous faites comparaison

de ce qui peut être obtenu pour cet Electeur, avec ses mérites personnels, ou avec les obligations que la France & l'Espagne lui peuvent avoir, cela vous paroîtra à la vérité peu de chose ; mais quand vous envisagerez l'affaire d'un autre côté, & quand vous prendrez la peine de considérer que ce Prince a perdu tout ce qu'il avoit du sien, & tout ce que le Roi d'Espagne lui avoit ou confié ou donné à l'exclusion de Luxembourg, Namur, Charleroi, & Nieuport, je crois que vous conviendrez que les offres qu'on lui fait ne sont pas inconsiderables, par rapport aux restitutions & aux espérances qui lui sont présentées. En un mot, vous savez, Monsieur, les sentimens du cœur de la Reine, mais vous savez aussi, les engagements & les mesures que son honneur l'oblige, & l'obligera toujours de garder.

Afin de conserver auprès de vous mon caractère, & de garder cette ouverture de cœur que je vous aie si souvent promise, il est nécessaire que je vous fasse savoir que Dimanche au soir j'ai reçu par un courier des lettres d'Utrecht, qui sont en date du 5^{me} d'Octobre, N.S. Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Reine y marquent que cinq de
ceux

ceux des Etats-Généraux avoient été ce matin même en conférence avec eux; qu'ils leur avoient représenté, dans la manière la plus pathétique, la résolution que leurs maîtres ont prise, de se joindre à la Reine, dans toutes les mesures nécessaires pour parvenir à la paix. Qu'ils leur ont parlé de Tournay & de Condé comme des places, dans l'opinion unanime de la République, essentielles à la sûreté de la barrière, & que pour tous les autres articles de la paix, ils affectoient de montrer une grande facilité, & une parfaite soumission à la Reine. Vous voyez, Monsieur, le pli que la Hollande va prendre; vous connoissez très bien la constitution de nos affaires domestiques, car je ne vous ai rien déguisé quand je vous ai parlé là-dessus, songez en grand & en habile Ministre comme vous l'êtes, au parti que vous devez suivre, & soyez assuré que je ne ferai autre usage d'aucune confidence que vous trouverez à propos de me faire, que celui qui convient à un galant-homme, & à votre serviteur.

La réponse que je donne, par ordre de la Reine, aux ouvertures des Ministres de l'Etat, est assez générale. Je m'attends à un renouvellement de leurs instances, & comme

le Comte de Strafford doit venir à la Cour en peu de jours, pour recevoir l'Ordre de la Jarretière, il fera indubitablement chargé de tout ce que ces Messieurs peuvent dire, & de toutes les assurances qu'ils peuvent donner, pour se réconcilier entièrement à la Reine, & pour procurer que leur paix se fasse avec la sienne. J'ai même quelque raison de croire que ce Ministre sera autorisé de répondre que pourvu que les Etats puissent garder Tournay, ils ne balanceront plus à entrer dans toutes les mesures qu'on puisse exiger d'eux. Il ne faut pas que je m'étende à raisonner sur ces faits, vous voyez à un coup d'œil, beaucoup plus que je ne suis capable de vous suggérer. Il vaut mieux que je finisse ma lettre, en vous assurant que je suis, Monsieur, votre, &c.

B.

To the Earl of Strafford.

MY LORD,

Windsor Castle, September 30, 1712.

ON Sunday night, about eleven o'clock, the Cabinet rose, and I then received the favour of your Lordship's last letter, of the
5th

5th of October, for which, and the good news it contained, I return my humble thanks.

Your Lordship asks my opinion, and I will tell it you with that freedom which becomes me, when I write to so good a friend. The Queen's sense and her present orders, you will find in my other dispatch.

I think then, that we are to endeavour so to conduct ourselves, as not to suffer the French on one hand to assume a superiority, and to prescribe in the negociation ; and not to let the States imagine, on the other, that we want their concurrence to make our peace, or court them for any reason but our desire to preserve them. Upon this foundation, I likewise think, that to obtain the Queen's entire concurrence with them, and hearty endeavours for them, the States must suit their demands to those circumstances which their ingratitude to the Queen, and their obstinacy have reduced them to. I think they must demand for themselves only, and be content, in conjunction with the Queen, to try to get what can be had for others ; and I think, when they have done this, that the Queen must not suffer France

to keep the whole world in arms, for a town the less, when they obtain so many more than they once expected to have.

I write to Monsieur de Torcy, by the Queen's order, to inform him that the States show an inclination to come in the measures of peace which, when I was in France, he seemed to think very desirable, as what must decide the whole; that we foresee the case will happen which I stated to him, of the submission of the Dutch, and therefore, that he must expect to find them supported, and waited for by the Queen; that whilst the Queen is at this distance from them, and whilst they are uncertain how far she may lay aside her anger, and condescend to receive them, it is probable they may come in at once, and close the peace upon the cession of Tournay; but if France continues to hold off, and the States continue to court the Queen, I write him word that they may perhaps ask, and the Queen be obliged to give her support to still higher terms than those which would now suffice. Upon the whole matter, I conclude, that we gain time on the side of Holland till we can hear from him, and I earnestly conjure him to lay the
matter

matter seriously to heart, and not to run out into new confusions, the end of which neither he nor I can foresee, for the sake of a town the more.

I confess, my Lord, the Dutch do seem to take the right pli at last, but give me leave to say, it is the only tolerable one which is left them to take; for I fear neither their throwing themselves into the hands of France, nor their adhering to the Emperor's chimerical project: one is mad, the other silly. They can never expect France will give them better terms without the Queen, than with her, and the proposals which come from Vienna, have not so much as the force of probability to invite*.

I should go farther on this subject, but this and the contents of my other letter, will be enough for one post, and besides, I suppose we shall meet in few days, since you will receive a letter from the Treasurer, to call you to court, on an errand that cannot be more to your Lordship's satisfaction, than it is to mine. Give me leave to add, that

* The proposals of furnishing an immense army to continue the war, were very grand upon paper, but the exhausted state of the Austrian dominions, with respect to men and money, rendered their fulfilment extremely improbable.

if my Lord Treasurer writes to you to come, your Lordship should not lose a moment of time in your journey, because I look on affairs to be hastening to their crisis, and you may better be spared this fortnight than the next. Adieu, my dear Lord, I am as true to you, as your own heart, and for ever
Your faithful, &c.

From Mr. Prior.

MATT TO HENRY,

BELIEVE how truly I love you, and think it my friendship that I tell you. Going to Chanille this afternoon, Monsieur de Torcy and Madame, and Monsieur Dalincourt, Secretary to the Admiralty, in the coach; Monsieur de Torcy read, and gave us to read, the Dutch Gazetteer, and upon a passage in one, asked me, if it were true, that at the Secretary's office, passports were sold for six pounds each *? You will think the

* By a memorandum relating to fees of Lord Bolingbroke's office, it appears that the fees for the Queen's pass were,

To the Secretary,	-	-	£. 5	0	0
Two Under-secretaries,	-	-	1	0	0
Clerk,	-	-	0	5	0
Chamber-keepers,	-	-	0	2	6

£. 6 7 6

The

the confusion I was in, and the manner in which I turned it, of which I will write to you *en droiture*, not being able in the mean time to conceal any thing from you, where I think your honour concerned; make what use you please of this. Adieu, I am very truly, my dear Lord, your's.

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Paris, { 10 October, } 1712.
 { 29 September, }

I AM glad to find by Dagley, who returns from Turin, that the Earl of Peterborough was happily within five days' journey of that place. I take the opportunity of the same messenger's going for England, to thank you for your's of the 17th of September, O.S. which I received by way of Dun-

The amount of all the fees received in his office, from the 21st September, 1710, to 30th September, 1711:

By the Secretary,	-	-	£. 3719	12	8
Two Under-secretaries,	-	-	1160	19	4
Clerk,	-	-	344	4	0

Such was the state of the office in time of war; but in the time of peace, the post of Under-secretary of State, was by no means a situation of emolument. By a memorandum signed by the two Under-secretaries, George Tilson and Thomas Hare, dated December, 1713, the net profit to each was only 128l. 1s. *per annum*.

kirk. I transmitted the inclosed advice from Nevis to Monsieur de Torcy, without much exaggeration, the thing speaking itself, especially since you will write to him by the courier, whom I every day expect with Drift; this hopeful project, as far as I hear of it, was Pontchartrain's, the ships were fitted by private persons, who bear the expence, and have the advantage of the expedition. It was designed for St. Salvador, against the Portugese, or Surinam; and I know already that the answer we shall have, will be, that they had no direction to annoy us, and that this court had no advice of this fact, till thus long after its being committed. I shall see Monsieur de Torcy on Wednesday, and upon it shall be able to give you a farther account of this matter, of which, I see they are all ashamed and startled.

I this moment receive your's of the 19th of September, relating to two ships taken by the French, though they had Spanish passes. I presume, Peter Hufch, mentioned in the complaint, will apply to me, at least, I will have him found out, and endeavour to get the complainants relieved. I can only beseech you again and again, to dispatch
I Drift,

Drift, in case he be not already gone, for I have nobody either to copy, receive, or seal up a letter for me, to carry a message, or receive an answer; and though I have hitherto transacted with the ministers here upon the Levant, my want of powers and orders grows downright ridiculous. You see that I dare write to you with the greatest liberty; it is because I am very truly and faithfully, your Lordship's, &c.

M. PRIOR.

Inclosed, I send your Lordship a letter from the Marquis de Monteleon*, wherein he expresses his joy for being named to England. He has dormant powers of ambassador, which he will take when her Majesty shall think proper.

* Montelon ran away with the daughter of Huguetan a French Protestant, who from a vender of pamphlets and breviaries, acquired so immense a fortune, that he supported for some time the credit of Louis XIV. Pontchartrain forced him to sign bills of exchange for several millions, which Huguetan refusing to pay, he was obliged to fly to the Hague. There he married the natural daughter of a Prince of Nassau. At last he settled in Denmark, where he contributed greatly to the prosperity of the country. He died 1750, aged 112, of grief for not obtaining the blue ribbon of the Order of the Elephant.

PRIVATE

PRIVATE.

Paris, October 10, 1712.

I THANK you, my dear Lord, for your concern as to my health, I think I am much better. I told you my distemper, which going off in twelve days, was succeeded by what I should not name, a sort of dysentery, which, for my comfort, they say is usual: *c'est l'usage, Monsieur* is unanswerable, you know, in this country; however, this too goes off, or at least diminishes, after which remains the returning an hundred impertinent visits, the last remains, I hope, of the distemper.

Nil admirari is your motto; I would own to any man else, my astonishment in that I have not a word of any kind from England.

God Almighty be thanked that the Queen is better. Adieu. My Lord, ever your's,
M. PRIOR.

I am sure you are not angry with me for what I writ to you in characters. You can't think how people talk of it here; I deny it stiffly as to your part, and will do so to death.

I write a long letter to Lord Dartmouth, of several particulars, I writ to him long
since,

since, that the two English ships which were to wait upon the Duke of Argyle at Toulon, should be received into that port. I every day find the inconvenience of being to correspond with two offices, but *que faire*? what nobody will remedy every body must suffer. Pray give no passports to French refugees, for they will be all incarcerated.

Adieu, my Lord, we must go through the impertinences as well as the serious follies of life.

Service to Brother Hill*; I hope he is recovered, for I would not have you afflicted at any thing. Adieu.

From Mr. Prior.

PRIVATE.

M. TO H.

Paris, October 17, 1712.

I AM glad the nomination is assented to, even as I drest it; I think it is as strong as you wish. *But* I had these additions made by Henchman sent me, with a promise that the next post they should come authentically, in

* Members of the club saluted each other with the appellation of Brother.

Latin, with the renunciation. *But* three couriers intervened, and they never came. *But* without your last letter, I should not have had grounds to have founded a memorial. *But* in a thing that presses thus, and for which the peace stays, I have no order to send this agreement away immediately to Lord Lexington, though I have taken upon me so to do. *But* if it had not been for your letter, I should not have heard that the French had ever been at Montfer-rat, except from the Dutch Gazettes. *But* we have been generously promised twelve passports for Spanish ships this month, which, when I tell Monsieur de Torcy, will, without fail, come by Gilligan, I am answered that the ships are already gone without the passports. *But* I have more to write than I can possibly perform, and dare not employ one hand in France ; and can get neither Drift or any other clerk from England. *But* I have not one word kept or entered of any thing I do write, or should write. *But* I am forced to make Monsieur Pecquet* come to me ; for example, twice this day, while

* By a letter from this gentleman to Mr. Hare, he appears to have been private Secretary to Torcy.

Monfieur

Monsieur de Torcy stays for him: add to this, the honest stupidity of my English Jonathan, in France, and the complaisance of two French dogs, and one Walloon, in new liveries, that call every body Marquis, and furnish me with a levée of spies, projectors, and beggars; that bring Jacobites in to me before I wake in the morning, and put tall Irishmen to bed to me. *Parlons d'autres choses.*

The renunciation being now as we desire, I suppose we are to come as soon as we can to our peace. How far, therefore, are we agreed at Utrecht? Are the articles in which we think we are agreed, specified and worded as plainly and distinctly as we desire? for you know as our circumstances stand, the fuller this is done, it is the better; for example, the first article of *pax generalis*, &c.; the second of hostilities ceases; the 3d or 4th, or sometimes 5th, of securing mutually the property of the subject may be more fully expressed, and have sometimes so been that in the treaty of Ryfwick*, which followed jejune-ly that of Breda; and you know tautology is no ill figure to the *many*. If any article

* Prior was there Secretary to the Embassy.

remains

remains yet not supervised and agreed, as that particularly of the *droit d'Aubaine* taken off, should not such articles be all ready drawn up, in order to their being consented to? And even that article which will specially refer to the renunciation to be made, which will be the basis of the treaty?

The article which will say France shall never assist the Queen's enemies, &c. should stay in the very words as mentioned in the 4th of Ryswick; it looks at least more authentic, standing thus confirmed in two treaties, and I believe cannot be stronger; there are other reasons too for it. I wish, therefore, that a copy of the treaty were sent hither, as it is designed, with an account of every article, as agreed, or to which any thing is to be added.

As likewise of a treaty of commerce, what already agreed, what asked, what to be adjusted, and by whom. In this case, my dear master, we should have our work before us.

As to the treaty itself, since the signing it is to be a sort of a secret, what harm if it be signed at London? is it not as honourable to the Queen, that d'Aumont comes
to

to her Court to sign a peace, as Mesnager did to own her authority ; and as you signed a cessation at Paris, is it not as handsome that you confirm it by signing a peace at Whitehall ? this, I say, I have been hammering, and will hint or prevent as you shall think proper. I need not protest that it is with true friendship that I shall in this or any thing endeavour what may be for your honour and satisfaction. Your most truly,

M. PRIOR.

Consult my Lord Treasurer upon the contents of my letter, and let me found myself upon your answer. Madame de Torcy is glad that you are so good ; la Feriole thanks you, but nobody must ever do one single kindness for a woman, and you must back your recommendation, and I must write, and this brother (not worth hanging, I fancy, after all) must be established in his *abbaye de l'Abondance*. The Duke of Argyle is arrived this evening at Paris ; I have ordered every thing for his reception, but since I must dispatch the courier to-night, and have an audience to-morrow morning, I cannot see him till towards noon.

From

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Verfailles, 6-17th October, 1712.

I AM to thank you, my Lord, for your letter of the 26th September; the fenſe I have of your friendſhip, I will demonſtrate in the actions of my life; the regard I have to your reasonings the *mémoire** incloſed will

* *Mémoire de Monſieur Prior, préſenté à Monſieur de Torcy, Octobre 3-14me, 1712.*

“ Selon ce que j’ai eu en charge de la part du Comte de Dartmouth, dans ſa lettre du 15me du dernier mois, j’ai eu l’honneur de vous repréſenter, qu’ayant examiné les termes de l’Acte de Renonciation on avoit trouvé convenable d’y ajouter les explications ci-jointes (1). Comme au même-tems il vous a plu d’agréeer que ces additions fuſſent inférées dans l’acte, & que vous avez fait objection ſeulement à celle qui ſuit. ‘ Après le mot paſſé & transmis, on doit inférer les noms des perſonnes ſur leſquels le droit de ſucceſſion ſeroit déclaré d’appartenir en vertu de la renonciation.’

“ Suivant votre intention & mon devoir, j’ai envoyé en Angleterre votre conſentement aux autres additions, & votre objection à celle-ci, devant rapportée, comme auſſi la lettre que vous avez écrite au Vicomte de Bolingbroke ſur ce ſujet.

“ Le tout ayant été mûrement examiné par la Reine en ſon Conſeil, ſa Majeſté m’a commandé par le Comte de Dartmouth, de vous communiquer ſes ſentimens et ſa réſolution là-deſſus.

“ Que quant à l’objection, que Philippe étant Prince étranger, prendroit ſur lui par cette nomination de régler en quelque façon la ſucceſſion à la Couronne de France, la réponse eſt évidente, que Philippe, en égard à cet acte, ne peut ni ne doit être cenſé Prince étranger, & n’y paroît point en cette qualité, mais, bien au contraire, en celle d’un Prince du ſang de

(1) Je ne les envoie point, elles ont été toutes agréées excepté la ſuivante.

France,

will show you ; upon which we have gained our point : and I think the nomination

France, & si proche en ligne à la succession de cette couronne, qu'en cette considération seulement, il a été déjà convenu qu'il n'étoit pas possible d'assurer une paix durable à l'Europe, si Philippe ne faisoit une renonciation, tant pour lui que pour ses descendans à la Couronne de France, sans entendre y faire aucune réserve de ses droits & prétensions, de quelque manière que ce puisse être ; cela étant, on trouve absolument nécessaire de nommer dans l'ordre légitime à la succession de la Couronne de France, en vertu de la renonciation ; car l'acte paroîtroit très imparfait qui diroit négativement que Philippe & ses descendans renoncent à la Couronne de France, si les Princes qui y sont appelés en vertu du même acte n'y étoient pas positivement nommés : & tant s'en faut que Philippe soit regardé à présent comme Prince étranger, qu'il ne peut être réputé pour tel par la Reine qu'après l'entier accomplissement du dit acte. Dans l'acte même, il est déclaré, en termes généraux, que Philippe cède son droit à toutes les branches de la famille royale de France, même au Prince les plus éloignés ; il ne peut être censé par-là de leur donner un nouveau droit, ni de disposer de la Couronne de France en faveur d'aucun d'eux. Ainsi en nommant les Princes les plus proches, & qui doivent succéder plus immédiatement à cette couronne, il ne peut être censé de leur attribuer un autre droit que celui qui leur advient dans l'ordre du sang, par le moyen de la renonciation ; & bien loin de nommer de nouveau des successeurs à la Couronne de France il ne fait que répéter ceux qui y sont déjà appelés plus spécialement, quand il renonce pour lui-même & pour toute sa postérité, à la Couronne de France, il consente qu'on regarde ce droit comme passé & transmis à celui qui se pourra trouver plus proche en degré, immédiatement après le Roi, le présent Dauphin, & leurs descendans, & par conséquent, le cas arrivant, ce droit tombe directement, sur Monseigneur le Duc de Berry, & ses descendans à jamais, & faute d'eux, sur Monsieur le Duc d'Orleans & ses descendans à jamais ; on ne voit point de difficulté à énoncer leurs noms, puisque le sens de l'acte renferme même leur nomination.

“ On ajoute que dans l'acte authentique de la convention pour la suspension d'armes en Flandre, cette dévolution des droits de Monseigneur le Duc de Berry & de Monsieur le Duc d'Orleans, & leurs descendans, a été déjà particulièrement spécifiée & énoncée.

tion* of the persons, &c. is done in a manner unexceptionable: so, once more, I thank you for sense, argument, light, and assistance, which you gave me, and which I beg you to continue to me.

I made, I hope, a right use of what you hinted to me in your former letter; and

“ La Reine a donné ses ordres au Lord Lexington, avant son départ d'Angleterre, en conformité du mémoire que j'ai l'honneur de vous présenter, & comme la France s'est déjà engagée que la renonciation sera faite de la manière que sa Majesté trouvoit la plus satisfaisante, elle se persuade que le Roi ne tardera point à donner, conjointement avec elle, la main pour applanir cette difficulté, & pour ôter tous moyens aux ennemis de la paix de prétexter qu'il y ait quelque omission dans la forme d'un acte sur l'explication duquel dépend l'amitié & la bonne correspondance entre les royaumes de la Grande Bretagne, de la France, & de l'Espagne, & la sûreté future de toute la Chrétienté.”

“ A Versailles, le 15^m Octobre, 1712.”

* “ *La Nomination des Princes du Sang, &c.*

“ Je veux & consens pour moi & mes dits descendants, que dès à présent comme alors, on regard ce droit comme passé & transmis à mon frère le Duc de Berry, & à ses enfans & descendants mâles nés en légitime mariage: à leur défaut, à mon uncle le Duc d'Orleans, & à ses enfans & descendants mâles, nés en légitime mariage: à leur défaut, à mon cousin le Duc de Bourbon, & à ses enfans & descendants mâles nés en légitime mariage. Ainsi successivement à tous les Princes du Sang de France, leurs enfans & descendants mâles, à jamais, suivant le rang & l'ordre où ils seront appelés à la couronne par le droit de leur naissance; par conséquent à celui des dits Princes (moi étant, ainsi que mes dits descendants, exclus, devenus inhabiles, & incapables) qui se pourra trouver plus proche en degré immédiatement après le Roi, par la mort duquel la dite Couronne de France viendrait à vaquer, & à qui en devra appartenir la succession, en quelque tems & en quelque cas que ce puisse être, pour qu'il l'ait, & la possède comme successeur légitime & véritable, de même que si moi & mes descendants ne fussions point nés.”

though

though the subject (of Cassart's invading our island) made me chagrin enough, I pretended to be more so than I really was; I showed and expounded your letter, said I dreaded the consequences this must have in England, and the orders I should have from my Lord Treasurer, and which, upon Thornborough's arrival, I said I had received both from Lord Treasurer and yourself. I found all our friends very uneasy at this accident, and heard Cassart and Pontchartrain cursed very heartily; and, as I saw opportunity, I proposed to Monsieur de Torcy to consider the nature and danger of this outrage at this time, and to find something on his Most Christian Majesty's side, that might set us right, for that his (Torcy's) friends in England suffered as actually on this occasion as the merchants that were invaded and robbed. This I write to you as a comment upon what he writes to you, and that you may not be surpris'd at a proposal which I don't know if you expected: I write likewise to Lord Treasurer. I own I have stretched a little in representing what I have received from you and Lord Treasurer on this subject, but I hope I have done ser-

vice to my Queen and country, and acted as became your most, &c.

M. PRIOR.

*Animal peregrinè missum
ad mentiendum R. P. causâ.*

We have not yet Monsieur Pontchartrain's answer; I believe it must wait till next courier.

From the Duke of Ormond.

MY LORD,

Ghent, 21st of October, 1712.

I TAKE the opportunity of an express, which brought me some letters this morning from Ostend, and is returning thither, to acquaint your Lordship with an affair which has been communicated to me by a person who is very well inclined to her Majesty's service: your Lordship will but judge of the importance of it, and the use that is to be made of it, when I tell you that the success of the enterprise upon Knoque has encouraged the forming of a project for surprizing Nieuport or Furnes; and that the fortifying Dixmude is made use of as a pretence for drawing together a body of troops sufficient

sufficient to put the design in execution. If it be thought most for her Majesty's service to prevent it, I am humbly of opinion some means should be found to give advice of it to the Marechal de Villars, who may possibly think we owe him that good office in requital of some informations your Lordship knows he has given me, with a design to serve her Majesty and the nation. I am not yet at liberty to acquaint your Lordship with the name of my author, who desires the whole matter may be managed with the greatest secrecy, which is a caution I know I need only mention to your Lordship. I hear nothing new to-day from Bouchain; but am assured the troops of both armies, which are to quarter in parts most remote from these countries, are already on their march, and that Prince Eugene will be the 24th at Brussels. I am, my Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

Humble servant,

ORMONDE.

To the Lord Privy Seal.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, October 14th, 1712.

MY other letter contains nothing, and very little will be contained in this.

It is now some time since I had reason to believe that Mr. Jefferys* did not speak of the Queen's affairs, and of the character of her servants, either with justice, or, indeed, with decency. I have since had very authentic information of his discourses concerning the treaty of peace, and her Majesty's conduct in the present juncture of affairs. I own to your Lordship, that nothing hindered me from complaining of this gentleman to [the Queen, but the consideration that he is honoured with your patronage. I hope he will learn to deserve your favour better; perhaps some hint from your Lordship might teach him to govern himself with more discretion.

I find so many false accounts, as of every thing else, so particularly of the Queen's health, in the foreign papers, that I think it

* Jefferys succeeded Dr. Robinson as Resident at the Court of Sweden.

proper

proper to let your Lordship know, that her Majesty has had in her arm a regular fit of the gout, to the joy of her physicians, and that she enjoys extreme good health, as multitudes can witness, for there was a very full court on Sunday last at Windsor; though the Dutch Gazetteers are taught by their Whig correspondents to say, that few people have access to her. I am, my Lord,

With all possible respect, &c.

A Monsieur le Duc de Noailles.

De Whitehall, ce 11me Septembre, 1712, V.S.

VOUS ne pouvez jamais, Monsieur, me faire un plus grand plaisir, qu'en me fournissant les occasions de rendre service à ceux qui sont assez heureux pour jouir de votre protection, & je tâcherai de me conduire d'une manière à vous convaincre que je n'oublierai jamais les faveurs dont vous m'avez comblé.

Conservez moi, Monsieur, cette amitié que vous m'avez promise, & soyez assuré, que dans toutes les circonstances de la vie, je ne cesserai jamais d'être plus parfaitement que personne, Monsieur, votre, &c.

A Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont.

De Whitehall, ce 11^{me} Novembre, 1712, V.S.

LES nouvelles qui viennent d'arriver d'Espagne hâteront la conclusion du grand ouvrage de la paix ; c'est la réflexion d'un Ministre : elles obligeront le Duc d'Aumont de se rendre bientôt ici ; c'est la réflexion d'un ami : vous m'avez, Monsieur, permis de porter ce beau titre, & je ne veux jamais le quitter. L'Abbé Gaultier me dit que vous attendez des passeports d'Hollande pour envoyer vos equipages. Il me semble que ces passeports ne sont pas fort nécessaires, puisqu'il ne tient qu'à vous d'avoir une frégate ou deux pour les escorter. Il y a même long-tems que j'ai offert à votre intendant de lui donner les ordres de la Reine, pour deux vaisseaux de ceux qui sont présentement aux Dunes. On a perdu l'occasion de vous faire avoir la maison du Comte de Leicester, dont je suis extrêmement fâché, parce qu'il sera très difficile de trouver une autre qui vous convient. Je ne manquerai pourtant pas d'y contribuer tout ce qui dépend de moi.

Le Duc d'Hamilton eût ordre Dimanche
passé,

passé, de presser son départ, & je crois qu'il commencera son voyage en dix ou douze jours.

Monsieur Prior retournera cette semaine en France. Il sera chargé de vous renouveler les assurances de cet attachement très parfait avec lequel j'ai l'honneur d'être,

Monsieur, votre, &c.

*A Madame de Feriole *.*

MADAME,

De Whitehall, ce 11^{me} Novembre, V.S. 1712.

SON Altesse Royale a eu la bonté de promettre, que d'abord qu'il sera rentré dans la possession de la Savoye, il confirmera à Monsieur l'Abbé de Tencin †, le don que le Roi lui a fait de l'abbaye d'Abondance ‡.

* Monsieur de Feriole was Ambassador to Constantinople, and there insisted upon wearing his sword in the presence of the Grand Signior, which the Turks would not permit, and Feriole refused to attend the Court. Lord Stair calls Madame de Feriole by her maiden name, Tencin, and says, that Bolingbroke had an amour with her; but his authority, being the crafty Genevois Saladin, is questionable. The Editor has been induced to omit many passages in the letters to and from Prior, which are either unimportant or of a private nature, but in no one is there to be found any evidence of such an imputation.

† Pierre de Guérin de Tencin: in 1724, he was consecrated Archbishop of Embrun, he was soon afterwards made Cardinal, and in 1739, was talked of to succeed Cardinal de Fleury.

‡ This abbey is in the diocese of Geneva, and in the nomination of the King of Sardinia.

Je

Je vous félicite, Madame, de cette bonne nouvelle, & si le succès que j'ai eu en exécutant vos premiers ordres, me procure l'honneur d'en recevoir d'autres, je suis assez heureux.

Monsieur Prior part cette semaine pour se rendre à Paris ; je lui ai proposé l'échange de nos emplois, mais il s'est montré trop sage pour vouloir m'écouter. Tout ce que j'ai pu obtenir de lui, a été qu'il vous assureroit de la parfaite estime avec laquelle

Je suis, Madame, votre, &c.

De Monsieur de Torcy.

MONSIEUR,

A Versailles, ce 17^{me} Octobre, 1712.

LA lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire, & que j'ai reçu par Monsieur Prior, me donne l'espérance d'en recevoir bientôt une autre, qui contiendra les intentions de la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, sur tous les articles de ma lettre du 27^{me} du mois dernier.

C'est un grand plaisir pour moi, Monsieur, de recevoir souvent vos ordres, & en même-tems des assurances de l'honneur de votre

amitié, dont je desire la continuation beaucoup au-delà de ce que je puis vous exprimer.

Nous avons eu quelque contestation, Monsieur Prior & moi, sur l'énumération que vos avocats veulent faire, de tous les Princes du sang; je crois cependant que vous trouverez que j'ai raison, lorsque vous lirez le projet que je lui ai proposé, & dont je joins la copie à cette lettre. Il me semble qu'il donne à l'acte de renonciation toute la force que vous voulez, & qu'on évite de faire une longue liste qui ne serviroit qu'à obscurcir inutilement un acte qu'il est nécessaire de rendre très clair & très intelligible.

Les armes que vous me donnerez feront toujours bonnes, il n'est question que de s'en bien servir, & souvent je souhaiterois qu'elles fussent en de meilleures mains, voyant l'importance de l'affaire dont il est question; je crois cependant qu'il y a lieu d'espérer plus que jamais, qu'avec votre secours, elle sera conduite heureusement au port.

Il paroît que les Hollandois commencent à se radoucir, & Messieurs vos Plénipotentiaires ont déclaré à ceux du Roi, que les Etats-Généraux consentirent présentement à
traiter,

traiter, sur le fondement que Lille feroit restituée à sa Majesté. Voilà un premier pas ; il en fait encore quelques autres ; mais les premières démarches coutent toujours le plus à faire.

Il est très nécessaire, Monsieur, que la Reine fasse presser Monsieur le Duc de Savoye de finir ; il s'arrête à des bagatelles, & pendant qu'il dispute pour obtenir quelques sommets des Alpes, & quelques villages qu'il n'aura pas, il s'expose à perdre le royaume de Sicile ; car il y a beaucoup d'agitations dans cette isle, & les habitans, naturellement inquiets, disent, assez hautement, qu'il vaut mieux se choisir un maître, & se donner à la maison d'Autriche, que de souffrir qu'on dispose d'eux comme un troupeau de moutons. Si la paix étoit faite, suivant le plan, il feroit aisé de mettre immédiatement après, Monsieur le Duc de Savoye en possession de la Sicile, il faudroit bien ensuite contenir ses nouveaux sujets dans le devoir.

Les Plénipotentiaires de Portugal disent beaucoup de pauvretés à Utrecht ; il feroit de la charité de la Reine pour les Portugais, d'obliger le Roi leur maître, à demander au plutôt la suspension d'armes. Les

Espagnols assiègent présentement Campo Mayor, qui vraisemblablement ne fera pas une longue résistance, si elle est bien attaquée. Les Portugais ont de leur côté levé précipitemment le siège d'un château nommé Caravajal, qu'ils commençoient d'attaquer.

J'écris une longue lettre à Monsieur le grand Trésorier au sujet de l'aventure désagréable arrivée en Amérique. Le Roi l'a regardée comme un contretems très fâcheux, mais de ceux qu'on ne peut prévoir, & qui pouvoit arriver de votre part de même que de celle de la France, sans qu'il y eût lieu de s'en plaindre. Toutefois sa Majesté propose des expédiens pour réparer le dommage, quoiqu'en bonne justice, elle n'y soit pas obligée : mais elle veut vous donner moyen d'imposer silence aux infidelles.

Je ne doute pas que l'Abbé Gaultier ne vous ait rendu compte des propositions que je lui ai mandé de faire pour avancer la signature de la paix ; ainsi je ne les répéterai point, & s'il y a quelqu'une qui soit du goût de la Reine, j'attendrai vos ordres.

Je vous supplie cependant, de croire qu'on

ne peut être avec plus de vérité, & plus d'attachement, que je suis, votre, &c.

DE TORCY.

Le Roi d'Espagne a différé jusqu'au 20me de ce mois l'ouverture des Etats, ainsi Monsieur le Comte de Lexington aura le tems de se rendre à Madrid avant le commencement de l'assemblée.

De Monsieur de Torcy.

A Versailles, le 21me Octobre, 1712.

VOUS alarmez souvent, Monsieur, nos Plénipotentiaires, et quoi qu'on puisse faire, pour les rassurer, l'inquiétude se renouvelle aussitôt que vos ministres à Utrecht semblent appuyer les prétentions des Hollandois.

Vous m'avez donné des armes pour me défendre contre des pareilles terreurs, & j'ai reçu encore votre dernière lettre, lorsque j'ai rendu compte au Roi du voyage de Monsieur le Comte de Strafford, à Londres, & des discours qu'il avoit tenus à Utrecht & à la Haye, avant son départ.

Je suis donc fortifié contre les nouveaux
assauts

assauts des infidelles, & je ne crains pas que la Reine de la Grande Bretagne presse le Roi comme on espère en Hollande, de se dé-fister de la restitution de Tournay ; mais je vous fais compliment, Monsieur, d'avoir enfin réduit les Hollandois au point que la paix générale dépende aujourd'hui de sa Majesté Britannique, car il est certain que Messieurs les Etats-Généraux, déjà d'accord de céder Lille, consentiront encore plus aisément à restituer Tournay, nécessaire pour la barrière de France, lorsque la Reine voudra bien leur déclarer qu'ils sont trop heureux que le Roi se contente de cette place, & que ce soit la seule condition que sa Majesté demande pour le prix des succès d'une campagne qu'ils pouvoient éviter en différant à vos exhortations, & à votre exemple.

Ainsi la conclusion de ce grand ouvrage est entre les mains de sa Majesté Britannique. Ses ordres à Monsieur le Comte de Straf-ford acheveront de ramener les Hollandois à la raison, & je suis persuadé, Monsieur, que vous ne perdrez point de tems à le ren-voyer en Hollande instruit de ce qu'il doit dire pour obliger cette République à céder sur l'article de Tournay. Elle n'est pas en
état

état de le contester plus long-tems, & vous savez mieux que personne qu'elle feroit fort embarrassée s'il falloit encore faire une nouvelle campagne.

Terminez donc les affaires, puisqu'elles sont au point de leur maturité, & sauvez à la Reine la peine de faire des instances inutiles quand elle fait les intentions du Roi, & le déplaisir qu'elle auroit de refuser ses demandes.

En vérité, Monsieur, la Sicile, accordée de bonne grâce à vos instances, mérite bien que vous ne fassiez de pas au sujet de Tournay qu'envers nos ennemis, & que vous les obligiez par vos réponses à conclure une paix, dont leurs provinces ont un pressant besoin. Que la Reine ordonne à Monsieur le Comte de Strafford de parler décisivement à son retour à la Haye, & je vous réponds du succès. Il vaut mieux obliger des ennemis comme nous étions autrefois, que des amis tels que sont les Hollandois présentement.

Mais vous croirez peut-être, Monsieur, que je me laisse aussi gagner par l'inquiétude des infidelles; je vous assure que j'en suis bien éloigné, & que personne n'a plus de confiance que moi en vos paroles.

Monsieur le Duc d'Argyle vint ici avant
hier,

hier, & il eût l'honneur de voir le Roi hier au matin. Il a paru fort content des dispositions où il a trouvé sa Majesté, & je ne doute pas qu'il n'en rende un compte exact à la Reine. Il convient qu'il fera de l'intérêt commun de détourner autant qu'il sera possible les sujets de sa Majesté Britannique de porter des bleds à Barcelonne, tant que les Allemands demeureront en Catalogne. Je vous supplie, &c.

DE TORCY.

Le Roi fait certainement, Monsieur, que les Hollandois ont résolu de céder Tournay, & qu'ils veulent seulement faire une tentative qu'ils croient eux-mêmes inutile.

A Monsieur de Torcy.

MONSIEUR,

A Versailles, le 26me Octobre, 1712.

VOUS aurez vu, par la lettre que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous écrire le 21me de ce mois, que le Roi étoit informé du voyage que Monsieur le Comte de Strafford faisoit à Londres, & de la commission principale dont il étoit

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M

chargé

chargé auprès de la Reine, de la part des Etats-Généraux.

Je n'aurois aujourd'hui qu'à vous répéter ce que je vous marquai par la même lettre au sujet de Tournay, si Monsieur Prior ne m'avoit parlé très vivement sur cet article, & s'il n'avoit employé les raisons les plus pressantes pour engager le Roi à s'en désister, dans la vue de procurer plus promptement la paix. Je vous avoue, Monsieur, que je n'ai pas été de son opinion, je lui ai même fait voir que la Reine ne pensoit pas comme lui, parce que sa Majesté Britannique approuvoit la déclaration que Messieurs de France ont faite à ceux de la Grande Bretagne, & qui ne laisse aucune incertitude sur les intentions du Roi à l'égard de Tournay. Je ne fais si je l'ai persuadé, mais je puis vous assurer, que ses argumens m'ont été d'autant moins convainquans, que dans tout ce qu'il m'a dit je n'ai vu nulle assurance d'une paix certaine, quand même le Roi voudroit sacrifier encore au bien générale de l'Europe, une place aussi considérable que Tournay, & aussi nécessaire pour la sûreté de sa frontière.

J'ai relu plusieurs fois, Monsieur, votre
dernière

dernière lettre, avec beaucoup d'attention ; ce que j'y trouve de plus fort, est que les Hollandois ont pris la résolution de se joindre à la Reine dans toutes les mesures nécessaires pour parvenir à la paix ; qu'hors l'article de Tournay, ils affectent une grande facilité sur toutes les autres conditions, & une parfaite soumission aux intentions de sa Majesté de la Grande Bretagne ; mais je ne vois pas, Monsieur, qu'ils désistent des autres points contenus dans le dernier mémoire qu'ils ont remis à Messieurs vos Plénipotentiaires ; il ne paroît pas qu'ils s'expliquent clairement sur la barrière, & quant au commerce, ils insistent encore sur les quatre espèces que le Roi veut excepter du Tarif de 1664. Ils continuent de parler de la barrière du côté de l'Empire, d'une manière que sa Majesté ne peut jamais admettre ; enfin l'exclusion qu'ils donnent à l'Electeur de Bavière ôteroit à sa Majesté tous les moyens de satisfaire en rien aux engagements qu'elle a pris avec ce Prince.

On ne peut donc regarder l'article de Tournay comme le seul point qui arrête encore la paix, ainsi que je le croyois lorsque j'eus l'honneur de vous écrire il y a peu de

jours, & suivant ce que Monsieur Prior m'a dit hier.

A la vérité, Monsieur, si toutes ces difficultés étoient levées, s'il étoit possible d'assurer à Monsieur l'Electeur de Bavière un dédommagement conforme au plan que je vous ai envoyé, ou tout au moins de lui donner avec la Sardaigne, ce qu'il possède présentement dans les Pays-Bas, je vous avoue que la certitude d'une paix très prochaine, où la Hollande entreroit de concert avec la Grande Bretagne, l'honneur & l'intérêt de la Reine, & permettez-moi d'y ajouter, celui de ses Ministres, feroient de puissantes raisons pour déterminer le Roi de faire un pas que sa Majesté avoit bien résolu de ne jamais faire ; vous savez même qu'elle avoit lieu de croire que la Reine ne lui feroit aucune instance sur cet article.

C'est donc à sa Majesté Britannique à juger si elle peut donner & maintenir de pareilles assurances ; en ce cas, Tournay n'arrêtera pas un bien aussi grand que celui de la paix. Mais s'il faut encore effuyer de nouvelles difficultés de la part de la Hollande, du Duc de Savoye, ou des autres Princes que la Reine jugera nécessaire de

faire entrer dans le traité, ou bien s'il fait abandonner un allié tel que l'Electeur de Bavière, le Roi ne prétend point s'engager à se désister d'une demande aussi juste que celle de la restitution de Tournay.

Enfin, Monsieur, il faut que cette cession soit le dénouement de la guerre, & le gage d'une paix certaine entre la France, la Grande Bretagne, & la Hollande, & ceux des alliés que vous pouvez y faire entrer. Si cela n'est pas, le Roi demande l'exécution du projet dont sa Majesté est convenue avec la Reine, c'est à dire, de faire une paix particulière immédiatement après que les renonciations concertées auront été enrégistrées.

Voilà tout ce que le Roi peut faire, & je suis persuadé que vous trouverez que c'est beaucoup, après tout ce que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous dire & de vous écrire, & de plus sa Majesté étant instruite de l'état & des résolutions de la Hollande.

Je vous supplie de croire qu'on ne peut être plus parfaitement que je suis,

Monsieur, votre, &c.

DE TORCY.

De Monsieur de Torcy.*

A Versailles, le 26me d'Octobre, 1712.

QUOIQUE Matthieu soit l'homme du monde le plus insupportable, je crois, my Lord, qu'il a encore assez de probité pour travailler de bonne foi, & tout de son mieux à finir notre ouvrage; nous sommes donc convenus qu'il partiroit pour aller vous trouver, & pour vous assurer, mieux que je ne puis faire moi-même, du desir sincère & véritable qu'on a ici de conclure & avec vous & avec des alliés à qui vous donnez une protection qu'ils n'ont guères méritée; mais c'est vous que l'on considère, & l'état de vos affaires.

Finissez donc, my Lord, comme il dépend de vous de le faire, & renvoyez au plutôt Matthieu, afin que j'aie le plaisir de le faire pendre, comme il s'y est engagé, si la paix n'est pas conclue moyennant la cession de Tournay.

S'il est de bonne foi, il vous dira ce que je souffre en mon particulier de ce changement; les infidèles triomphent & je reçois des reproches que d'autres services n'efface-

* This is evidently a private letter.

sont jamais. Mais je souffre pour vous, & si la paix se fait comme j'espère, je serai content quand même Matthieu ne seroit pas pendu. Je suis, &c.

DE TORCY.

Je vous prie, Monsieur, de faire attention aux deux mémoires qu'il vous remettra, dont vous connoissez parfaitement l'importance.

De Monsieur de Torcy.

ENFIN, my Lord, le point capital de la renonciation du Roi d'Espagne vient d'être consommé à Madrid, & je ne puis mieux vous informer de ce qui s'est passé en cette occasion, qu'en vous envoyant la copie de la lettre que Monsieur de Bonac * à écrite au Roi en sortant des Cortes, où la fonction s'est faite. Je ne doute pas que Monsieur le Comte de Lexington, qui en a été témoin, n'en rende compte à la Reine.

L'enrégistrement de l'acte de renonciation sera fait au Parlement de Paris, aussitôt que l'original, qu'on attend de Madrid, sera ar-

* Envoy of France at Madrid.

rivé ici ; & les copies authentiques en seront aussi enrégistrées ensuite dans tous les autres Parlemens du royaume.

Vous voyez, my Lord, que de la part du Roi, tout est comme accompli. Car les renonciations de Monsieur le Duc de Berry, & Monsieur le Duc d'Orléans, sont prêtes, & elles partiront pour l'Espagne aussitôt que l'acte original de la renonciation du Roi Catholique sera arrivée. C'est donc de vous présentement, qu'il faut attendre la consommation de l'ouvrage, & je suis persuadé que vous ne la différerez pas. Je vous avoue que je souhaiterois fort qu'il ne fut pas nécessaire de prolonger le tems de la suspension dont le terme finit dans un mois.

J'attends avec impatience de nouvelles de Monsieur Prior, & quelque sujet que j'ai de me plaindre de lui en mon particulier, je serai très aise de le revoir, sans qu'il mérite d'être pendu. Son retour me fera d'autant plus de plaisir que je saurai de lui de vos nouvelles particulières ; & je vous assure, my Lord, qu'il y a peut-être nul endroit au monde où l'on s'intéresse plus sensiblement qu'ici à tout ce qui vous regarde.

Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont presse vivement

ment son départ, mais je voudrois bien que Matthieu fut revenu auparavant, quoique j'ai appris à mes dépenses qu'il faut se défier de ses conseils. Je suis, &c.

DE TORCY.

A Marli, le 15^{me} Novembre, 1712.

De Monsieur de Torcy.

MONSIEUR,

De Whitehall, ce 11^{me} November, V.S. 1712.

QUOIQUE Matthieu doit partir à la fin de cette semaine, je n'ai pourtant pas voulu manquer de profiter de cette occasion de vous écrire, par le courier que l'Abbé Gaultier a dessein de dépêcher, & de vous dire que je me trompe fort si vous ne soyez content de nous.

Les instructions du Comte de Strafford sont dressées, & j'en ai montré à l'Abbé un article par lequel il est très expressément ordonné à ce ministre, aussi-bien qu'à Monsieur l'Evêque de Bristol, de déclarer aux ministres de l'état, que c'est pour la dernière fois que la Reine les recherche, que sa Majesté espère qu'ils accepteront les conditions qui leur sont offertes, & qu'ils entreront sans réserve & sans délai dans les mesures de la
paix ;

paix ; que s'ils prétendent de perdre plus de tems en négociant, ou de créer de nouveaux obstacles par des demandes ultérieures, la Reine conclura son traité avec la France & l'Espagne, & ne s'embarassera plus des intérêts de leur république.

Au surplus, vous voulez bien que je me remette à ce que j'aurai l'honneur de vous écrire en deux jours d'ici par son Excellence Matthieu. Je crois que vous le trouverez instruit à finir toutes choses, & que malgré sa physionomie, qui n'est pas des plus heureuses, il ne sera pas pendu pour le coup.

Avant que de finir cette lettre, il faut que je vous dise, Monsieur, que j'ai fait arrêter un certain Beaulieu, qui se dit Languedocien ; il prétend d'avoir eu une affaire avec Monsieur de Bavière, au sujet d'une assemblée de Protestans, tenue dans le Haut Vivares, & d'un passeport donné à un nommé Prurat, & s'être retiré par cette raison de France. Je fais qu'il s'est donné beaucoup de mouvement parmi les réfugiés, & je le soupçonne d'avoir trâmé des desseins chimériques à la vérité, mais qui ne doivent pourtant pas être négligés : je fais ses adresses, & j'ai pris des mesures sûres pour arrêter toutes ses lettres ;
je

je vous avertirai de tout ce que je pourrai découvrir.

Je finissois ma lettre quand votre courier est arrivé, par lequel j'ai reçu celle que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 15^{me} de ce mois. Je me réjouis avec vous, Monsieur, de la bonne nouvelle ; les ennemis de la paix ne pourront plus traverser ce grand ouvrage, & je me flatte qu'en très peu de semaines on y donnera la dernière main.

Prior ne tardera pas à jouir d'un bonheur que je lui envie, celui de vous voir, & de vous embrasser ; le Duc d'Hamilton le suivra de près.

Adieu, Monsieur, tout aimable que vous êtes, il n'y a pas peut-être au monde un homme qui vous aime tant que Votre, &c.

B.

To the Earl of Strafford.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, November, 11th, 1712.

YOUR Lordship will receive with this letter, the instructions to my Lord Privy Seal and yourself, together with some papers referred to in them, and others which I
judged

judged necessary for your Lordship's information*. The extracts of letters relating to the barrier treaty, will serve as vouchers to some matters which you will have occasion to advance; and which will very probably be controverted, when you come to debate the new project with the Dutch Ministers. I confess I mean particularly to enable your Lordship, and Lord Privy Seal (at the same time as you tell the Dutch that there can be no union between us and them, unless they agree entirely to lay aside the whole barrier-treaty, that scandalous instance of our being sold by a faction) to reproach the Pensionary and the other Ministers for imposing so grossly on the easiness and good-

* Inclosed were instructions for the Lords Plenipotentiaries, dated November 11th, 1712.—Copy of Monsieur Hoffman's memorial, dated October 22nd, 1712.—Copy of Lord Bolingbroke's answer, dated November 11th, 1712.—Copy of Monsieur Mellarede's memorial.—Points relating to the Duke of Savoy.—A paper concerning North America.—A paper concerning the articles of the treaty of commerce not yet adjusted.—Copy of the articles not yet adjusted, together with the amendment made to some of them, by the Plenipotentiaries of France, upon the first project of the articles to be insisted upon to be made part of the treaty of commerce.—A comparison of duties according to the tarif of 1664.—A comparison of extracts of letters, from Mr. Boyle, to Lord Townshend, concerning the barrier-treaty; viz. 5th, 10th July, 2nd, 8th November, 1709.—Extracts of letters, from Lord Townshend to Mr. Boyle, of the 2d, 5th July, and 26th November, 1709.—And one to Lord Sunderland, of the 1st of November, 1709.

nature of my Lord Townshend, as to make him admit such things as they proposed, though foreign to the succession or the barrier, after they had established it as a principle, that nothing should be inserted in that treaty, but what immediately concerned either the one or the other.

Your Lordship will find no paper wanting, but the new project of a treaty of succession and barrier, of which it has not been possible to make a transcript, the only copy of it being my *brouillon*, and that being in Mr. Tilson's hands, who translates it into Latin. Your Lordship will, however, be sure to receive it before you set out from London, and if you was to go sooner, it should overtake you on the road. I am, &c.

A Monsieur le Chevalier de Mole.*

MONSIEUR,

De Whitehall, ce 14me Novembre, V.S. 1712.

JE ne saurois me dispenser de vous supplier d'accorder votre protection à Monsieur & Madame Calandrini, qui retournent à

* Intendant at Dunkirk.

Paris.

Paris. On leur a fait peur des partis de Huf-fars & autres qu'on prétend être en campagne sur cette frontière. Ayez la bonté de leur donner des escortes, si vous le jugez nécessaire, & de les recommander au Commandant de Boulogne.

Je ne puis laisser échapper cette occasion de vous faire mes très humbles remerciemens de toutes les faveurs dont vous m'avez comblé, dans mon dernier voyage. Je suis pénétré d'une très vive reconnoissance, & j'ose vous assurer, que je suis plus qu'homme au monde, Monsieur, votre, &c.

Je prends la liberté d'assurer Madame de Molé de mes très humbles respects.

A Monsieur de Torcy.

MONSIEUR,

De Whitehall, ce 14^{me} Novembre, V.S. 1712.

QUOIQUE je craigne de vous être importun, je ne puis pourtant pas m'empêcher de vous recommander encore une fois les intérêts de Monsieur Calandrini. Je les regarde comme les miennes propres, & comme je n'ai jamais senti une douleur plus vive que celle que m'a causé le malheur de cette famille,

famille, ainsi ne puis-je espérer un plus grand plaisir que celui de la voir rétablie par les bons offices & puissante protection de l'homme du monde auquel je souhaiterois le plus d'être obligé.

La grâce que je demande pour eux, & qui les tireroit quoiqu'avec une perte très considérable, d'affaires, est que Monsieur Desmarets aie la bonté de changer leurs assignations en des billets de Receveurs-Généraux, payables aux mêmes échéances, qui sont en 1714 & 1715, s'ils pouvoient en même-tems obtenir une cinquantaine de milles livres à compte de leurs assignations, la faveur seroit complète, & l'obligation que je vous en aurois éternelle.

Encore un coup, pardonnez à mon importunité, & soyez persuadé que je suis, & que je ferois toute ma vie, avec la plus haute estime, & la plus parfaite amitié,

Monfieur, votre, &c.

B.

To

A Monsieur de Torcy.

De Whitehall, ce me Novembre, V.S. 1712.

ENFIN, Monsieur, nous voici à la veille de la paix, & j'espère que vous trouverez les argumens de Monsieur Prior plus convaincans à son retour, que vous n'avez fait avant son départ.

La fermeté de la Reine vaincra l'opiniâtreté des Hollandois, les facilités qu'a données sa Majesté Très Chrétienne mettront ceux qui gouvernent cette république dans un état à n'oser plus long-tems faire les guerriers. Voilà comme nous raisonnons ici.

Mais si contre notre attente, les Etats-Généraux prenoient le parti de vouloir, après la cession de Tournay, former les demandes ultérieures, & embarrasser la négociation de nouveau, la Reine se contentera d'avoir fait pour eux tout ce qu'elle a pu, & dans ce cas, Monsieur, les Plénipotentiaires de sa Majesté signeront avec ceux des alliés qui voudront y entrer, le traité particulier avec la France & l'Espagne.

Ce que j'ai l'honneur présentement de vous écrire, est conforme aux instructions que Monsieur le Comte de Strafford vient de recevoir,

recevoir, & cette résolution paroît si décisive qu'il n'est plus nécessaire d'entrer dans la discussion de plusieurs points contenus dans votre dépêche du 26me Octobre. Il me semble que nous devons être contents les uns des autres, & vous me permettrez, Monsieur de vous dire, que si le Roi de son côté a fait quelques sacrifices pour l'amour de la paix, ce n'étoit que sur la confiance que la Reine a toujours eu dans les intentions de sa Majesté Très Chrétienne qu'elle a fait de certains pas, qui ne sont pas dans la règle ordinaire de la négociation, & que vous savez très-bien, sans qu'il soit nécessaire que je les rappelle.

Monsieur Prior vous expliquera de bouche ce que la Reine fait déclarer aux Etats-Généraux sur les intérêts de l'Electeur de Bavière, & sa Majesté espère que le Roi verra par-là combien elle souhaite de lui plaire dans tout ce qui dépend d'elle. Il faut pourtant, Monsieur, que je dise, que nous ne voyons pas comment les prétensions de ce Prince viennent à être mêlées avec la proposition de la cession de Tournay. Quand il s'agissoit de donner la Sicile au Duc de Savoye, vous disiez que ce royaume étoit

destiné par le Roi d'Espagne à l'Électeur de Bavière, lequel, par conséquent, devoit être dédommagé, ce dédommagement fut même spécifié, & la Sardagne fut demandée ; mais aujourd'hui le cas est fort différent, & vous m'avouerez que Tournay ne seroit point donné à l'Électeur si les Hollandois furent obligés à s'en défaire.

La cession de la Sicile accordée, & le droit du Duc de Savoye à la couronne d'Espagne substitué après le Roi Philippe & ses enfans, on ne peut plus douter que ce Prince n'entre dans toutes les mesures qui ont été prises pour parvenir à la paix. La Reine compte là-dessus, & en effet son Altesse Royale est trop éclairée pour vouloir renoncer à des avantages réels & solides, tels que nous lui proposons, & se repaître des chimères de la cour de Vienne.

L'article de la barrière du côté de la France paroïssoit devoir être la pierre d'achoppement. Vous savez, Monsieur, combien vous avez été roide là-dessus, & je vous puis assurer que les Ministres de Savoye en ont toujours parlé comme d'une chose essentielle aux intérêts de leur maître, & sans l'acquisition de laquelle il n'obtiendrait

droit pas cette sûreté que sa Majesté Très Chrétienne a promis de vouloir faire trouver dans la paix à tous les alliés. Par ce que Monsieur Prior aura l'honneur de vous représenter, vous verrez que cette difficulté ne subsiste plus, & il me semble que son Altesse Royale se retranche à ne demander que ce qui a été renfermé dans l'offre d'Exilles, de Fenestrelles, & de la Vallée de Pragelas, ou pour mieux dire, que ce qui est absolument nécessaire pour rendre ces places d'aucune utilité. A l'égard de la liberté de fortifier, que son Altesse Royale souhaite d'avoir, nonobstant le traité de 1696, je crois que le Roi ne fera point de difficulté de la lui accorder, pourvu qu'elle s'oblige à ne pas s'en servir pour rebâtir les fortifications de Pignerol.

J'ai parcouru les projets de traité qui ont été dressés à Utrecht, tant par Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires du Roi que par ceux de la Reine; & je n'y trouve de différence considérable, que sur deux articles, celui d'Amérique Septentrionale, & celui de commerce. Je ne veux pas entrer dans ce détail, ce seroit une affaire d'une trop longue discussion, & au lieu de vous écrire une lettre, je vous

enverrois un livre. Monsieur Prior vous entretiendra sur ces points, & je me bornerai à vous prier de tomber d'accord avec lui de quelques expédiens, afin que les Ministres à Utrecht n'ayent rien à démêler ensemble, mais puissent concourir unanimement à faire entrer les autres dans des sentimens pacifiques.

Je veux finir cette lettre comme je l'ai commencé; enfin, Monsieur, nous voici à la veille de la paix, ne faisons point naufrage dans le port, mais concluons au plutôt un ouvrage du succès duquel dépend le bonheur de tant de peuples du siècle présent, & de ceux qui sont à venir. Je suis, &c.

B.

To the Duke of Argyle.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, November 19th, O.S. 1712.

I EXPECTED an opportunity of writing to your Grace by a more safe and speedy conveyance than ordinary, but that having not yet offered itself, I no longer defer putting you in mind of one of the most faithful and affectionate of those many servants which you left behind you.

As to Mr. Durand, for whose settlement your Grace was so justly sollicitous, I think he may depend on having a fixed establishment of 500 l. a year; whatever falls short of this sum in the allowance of the ordinance, will be made up to him by particular warrant.

As to the money for carrying forward the works *, I cannot speak so positively, but I will tell you ingenuously what I imagine is the secret—we are got into the winter, the meeting of the parliament approaches, and my Lord Treasurer would be glad to see what inclination the House of Commons will show to furnish supplies for this service, before he engages in any extraordinary expence; besides, he may perhaps consider that these acquisitions by the peace will appear much less valuable if an immediate charge attends them, let that charge be, in its consequence, never so advantageous. In this manner I account for that care which I see taken to make the expence, both of Minorca and Port Mahon, look as little as possible, and to contrive, if that may be done, to make this contribute

* Probably the fortifications at Minorca.

to its own maintenance ; for this end, there is a Surveyor of the Crown appointed, who will shortly be sent thither, and whose commission will direct him to enquire into the tenures of lands, the present revenues, &c.

As to your Grace's uncle, who you desire should be made Commissary of the Musters for the northern part of Britain, I have not been negligent in applying for him ; but I have not yet received such an answer as edifies me, or would edify you, and when I cannot speak clearly, I choose to hold my tongue. My opinion is, that it is not intended for him ; but I will shortly, either by Lord Ilay * or by letter to your Grace, be more categorical on this head.

I must not omit by this opportunity to acquaint your Grace with the tragical event of last Saturday : My Lord Mohun had, on Thursday, given very brutal language to the Duke of Hamilton, at the chambers of a Master in Chancery ; the latter replied in no provoking manner, and intended to pass it over as the effect of wine ; but the next day, Mohun sent him a challenge by M'Cartney ; that is, he who gave the affront de-

* Brother to the Duke of Argyle.

manded satisfaction of the person who received it. They fought, received three or four wounds each, and both died on the spot, or a few minutes after *.

I will detain your Grace no longer from being better employed than in reading my letter, but subscribe myself, faithfully and affectionately, your's, &c.

To the Queen.

MADAM,

Whitehall, November 20th, 1712.

I RECEIVED this morning a letter from Monsieur de Torcy, with an account that the King of Spain's renunciation of the kingdom of France has been approved and registered by the Cortes: that the Dukes of Berry and Orleans have signed their renunciations of any right to the Crown of Spain: that these last renunciations are sent into Spain, to be registered by the Cortes, as the former will be registered in the Par-

* This unfortunate occurrence underwent the interpretation of party-prejudice; it was said that the Duke of Hamilton did not meet with fair play from M^cCartney, the second of his antagonist, and that his Grace died by a thrust from him.

liaments of France, the moment it arrives from Madrid, which Monsieur de Torcy is in hourly expectation of.

The French and Spaniards have, by these steps, almost entirely finished the execution of the great article of the peace ; and I find they are at Marly under no small impatience for Mr. Prior's return, and to be informed of your Majesty's decision. This eagerness, on the part of France, to conclude, strengthens still more your Majesty's hands, and enables you to give the law.

It is my duty likewise to acquaint your Majesty with a piece of intelligence which was sent to the French Ambassador in Switzerland, from a person not named to me, but said to live in the neighbourhood of the canton of Berne ; and which, however improbable, is too horrid not to alarm those who, by inclination and gratitude, as well as allegiance, are devoted to your Majesty. The informer pretends to have discovered, in the closet of a senator who is in the interest of the allies, a design carried on by the allies, for thus general is the expression, either by suborning your Majesty's guards, or
by

by gaining your servants, to poison your Majesty, or carry you off. He adds, that most of the French refugees, who are, it seems, the newsmongers there, as they are in all other places, affect to give out that your Majesty shall not arrive at the end you propose, but that all your measures shall be broken. These are, I hope, nothing more than the effects of impotent, but noisy, rage; and God, who has raised you up for the good of the world, will preserve you as a blessing to your own people, and to all the nations round us. Monsieur de Torcy concludes his letter by mentioning the complaints made in Spain, that your Majesty's troops acted after the suspension of arms; which did happen, by Mr. Pearce's not receiving his orders in time.

I must not omit to let your Majesty know, that the post has been robbed, both in France near Amiens, and here a little way out of Southwark; the letters directed to my Lord Treasurer, to my Lord Dartmouth, to the Abbé Gaultier, and to one Malot, at whose house the latter usually is, have been opened. The Lords have this evening directed an order of council to be prepared, on consulting

consulting the Post-masters, the Attorney, and the Solicitor*, for discovering the persons concerned, and it will be ready to be laid before your Majesty on Sunday, as likewise the inquiries of the Coroner, upon the deaths of Duke Hamilton, and Lord Mohun.

I beg pardon for the length of my letter, and am, Madam, your Majesty's, &c.

De Monsieur de Tercy.

VOUS verrez, Monsieur, par la dernière lettre que j'ai reçu de Monsieur de Bonac, & dont j'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer la copie, que l'acte de renonciation du Roi d'Espagne à la Couronne de France avoit été approuvé & enrégistré par les Cortes.

L'expédition de cet acte, que sa Majesté envoie ici en forme, n'est pas encore arrivée, mais le Roi ne l'a pas attendu pour faire signer & pour envoyer à Madrid, les renonciations de Monsieur le Duc de Berry, & de Monsieur le Duc d'Orléans; elles

* General.

sont portées par un courier exprès que le Duc d'Offune a dépêché au Roi son maître.

Ainsi, Monsieur, le Roi d'Espagne a renoncé à ses droits sur la Couronne de France, sa renonciation est approuvée en Espagne, & enrégistrée par les Cortes.

Les Princes de France qui pouvoient avoir droit sur la Couronne d'Espagne y ont renoncé, & leurs renonciations signées d'eux & envoyée à Madrid, seront enrégistrées par les Cortes immédiatement après l'arrivée du courier.

La renonciation du Roi d'Espagne à la Couronne de France sera enrégistrée incessamment dans le Parlement de Paris, & dans tous les autres parlemens du royaume, puisqu'elle est déjà reçue & enrégistrée par les Cortes, & que le courier qui l'apporte ici est attendu à tous momens.

Voilà donc ce que le Roi & le Roi d'Espagne ont promis, accompli en grande partie, & le reste à la veille de l'être entièrement ; il semble que, les affaires en cet état, rien ne devroit plus arrêter la conclusion de la paix ; cependant, Monsieur, dans le tems que je n'attends de vous que de bonnes nouvelles, je vous avoue que je ne puis m'empêcher

pêcher d'être en peine de votre silence, & de celui de Monsieur Prior. L'Abbé Gaultier même ne m'a pas écrit depuis le 1^{er} me de ce mois. Je crois que vous comprendrez, & par conséquence, que vous excuserez aisément mon impatience dans une conjoncture où il est si important de se conduire de concert.

Je vois de plus qu'on voudroit accuser la France de retarder la conclusion de la paix, & vous savez si, de la part du Roi, il y a été perdu un moment. Sa Majesté a même travaillé pour les intérêts de Monsieur le Duc de Savoye aussi vivement que si le traité eut été conclu avec ce Prince, & cependant elle ne fait pas quel est l'état de notre négociation à Turin; on prétend même, & on l'écrit de quelques endroits de l'Italie, que ce Prince travaille à se lier plus que jamais avec la maison d'Autriche, que son principal objet est d'obtenir pour le Prince de Piémont l'Archiduchesse de l'Empereur Joseph, avec le Milanés en dot; qu'il préféreroit l'acquisition de ce duché à celle de la Sicile, regardant ce Royaume comme trop éloigné de ses états pour le pouvoir conserver, & que le

le Milanés servant de dot à l'Archiduchesse, il en feroit Gouverneur perpétuel.

Je crois que vous aurez eu ces mêmes avis, mais il vaut mieux les répéter que de vous les laisser ignorer. Il n'y a pas lieu de douter aussi que la Reine n'ait pas pris des mesures bien justes pour être assurée de Monsieur le Duc de Savoye. Le Roi a sur cet article, & sur tous les autres qui regardent la paix, une entière confiance en la prudence de sa Majesté Britannique.

Mais, Monsieur, il est tems de finir, & comme c'est de votre côté qu'on doit attendre le dénouement, ne foyez pas surpris si je vous demande avec empressement de vos nouvelles. Je le fais avec autant plus de confiance que je fais vos sentimens & que je vois qu'il n'est pas moins conforme aux intérêts qu'à l'inclination de la Reine, de finir promptement l'ouvrage qu'elle a commencé, & que nous voyons presqu'au point de sa perfection.

Je vous assure que je ne puis m'empêcher d'être alarmé des discours que les ennemis de la paix ne cessent de tenir contre sa Majesté Britannique, quoique je suis persuadé qu'ils n'ont d'autre fondement, que le desir que

ceux

ceux qui les tiennent, auroient de voir encore prolonger la guerre. Quelque vaines que soient leurs menaces, je crois cependant Monsieur, devoir vous communiquer l'extrait que je viens de recevoir d'une lettre qui a été écrite à l'Ambassadeur du Roi en Suisse par un homme qui demeure dans le voisinage du Canton de Berne. Vous en ferez l'usage qu'il vous plaira, & j'espère que vous le regarderez comme un simple discours, dont les effets ne sont nullement à craindre.

Monsieur le Comte de Lexington aura informé la Reine des plaintes qu'il a reçues de la part du Roi d'Espagne sur ce que le commandant des troupes de la Grand Bretagne en Portugal n'a pas observé la suspension, & qu'il a continué d'agir en faveur des Portugais. Il en a coûté aux Espagnols de lever le siège de Campo Mayor. Je souhaiterois pour les dédommager, & pour le bien des affaires, que la Reine put obliger Monsieur de Staremborg à faire embarquer les troupes Allemandes qui sont en Catalogne, mais en vérité je doute fort qu'il se laisse persuader.

Je vous supplie de croire qu'on ne peut
être

être avec plus d'attachement, & plus véritablement, que je suis, Monsieur, &c.

DE TORCY.

A Marli, le 25^{me} Novembre, 1712.

Le Roi fait Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont Chevalier de ses ordres, avant que de le faire partir.

Permettez-moi encore, my Lord, de vous presser pour le bien de l'affaire, de me donner de vos nouvelles, & de ne perdre point de tems pour finir, puisque vous voyez que de la part du Roi il n'y a pas eu un moment de perdu à consommer ce qui vous a été promis.

A Monsieur de Torcy.

De Whitehall, ce 21^{me} Novembre, V.S. 1712.

J'AI vu, Monsieur, par la dernière lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire, & que la Vigne me rendit hier, l'impatience dans laquelle vous êtes de recevoir de nos nouvelles.

Comme je trouve cette impatience très-bien fondée, je n'ai pas voulu attendre le départ de Prior, mais je vous envoie le même courier, & je le charge de la lettre ci-jointe que Matthieu vous devoit avoir remis.

Ce

Ce visage de bois ne commencera son voyage que Lundi prochain, & vous ne serez surpris de ce délai, quand vous saurez la triste aventure de Samedi passé ; l'Abbé Gaultier ne manquera pas de vous informer que le Duc d'Hamilton s'est battu en duel avec Monsieur de Mohun, & que tous les deux sont restés sur la place.

La Reine ne tardera pas à nommer un autre Ambassadeur, & je me trompe fort si vous n'en soyez content.

Le Roi & le Roi d'Espagne ont à peu près accomplis tout ce qu'ils ont promis à l'égard du grand article pour empêcher la réunion des deux monarchies. Je l'avoue Monsieur, & je serois au désespoir, si de notre côté l'on avoit rien négligé de tout ce qui peut contribuer à presser la conclusion du grand ouvrage de la paix. Vous savez, sans que je vous le dise, la nature de notre gouvernement, & le génie de notre peuple, combien de mesures nous avons à prendre, combien d'esprits nous avons à ménager, ainsi vous ne serez pas surpris quand les réponses que vous attendez d'ici ne viennent point avec toute l'expédition que les conjonctures paroissent exiger.

Pour

Pour cette fois, j'espère que vous vous trouverez dédommagé de notre lenteur, par cette résolution décisive que le Comte de Strafford est allé porter en Hollande.

Ce que vous marquez dans votre lettre, des intrigues qu'on prétend être tramées par le Duc de Savoye à la cour de Vienne, est conforme à des avis que nous avons de tems en tems reçu. Dans l'autre lettre j'ai touché les raisons qui ont empêché la Reine d'y faire aucune attention. J'ajouterai dans celle-ci, que Messieurs les Ministres Impériaux ont affectés dans plusieurs occasions de faire de pareilles insinuations, ne souhaitant rien de mieux que de brouiller Son Altesse Royale avec la Reine, & de rendre son accommodement avec le Roi plus difficile.

Je vous suis extrêmement obligé des avis que vous me donnez, touchant les menaces que font les ennemis de la paix. La Reine, j'ose dire, pousse un peu trop loin cette maxime de César, qu'il vaut mieux mourir que de vivre dans une crainte continuelle de la mort ; mais nous autres qui avons l'honneur de la servir, ne négligerons rien de tout ce qui peut contribuer à mettre en sûreté une vie aussi précieuse que la sienne.

Sa Majesté a été fort fâchée de ce qui est arrivé en Portugal ; le Commandant des troupes l'excuse en disant qu'il n'a pas manqué de déclarer & d'observer la suspension d'armes, d'abord qu'il a reçu ses ordres. Mon opinion est que les Portugais ont intercepté les premières lettres que le Comte de Dartmouth lui a écrit sur ce sujet : je ne fais pas quel parti Monsieur de Staremborg prendra. Il est impossible qu'il puisse se soutenir en Catalogne, & s'il refuse d'embarquer ses Allemands, je crois qu'il trouvera quelque difficulté à faire sa retraite comme Xenophon fit la sienne.

L'Abbé Gaultier m'a mis au désespoir quand il m'a dit que l'Evêque de Bristol avoit reçu très froidement Monsieur le Duc de St. Pierre.

J'ai écrit à ce bon homme, dans les termes les plus forts, que c'étoit l'intention de la Reine qu'il fit ses plus grands efforts, conjointement avec les Ministres de France, pour appuyer les intérêts du Duc ; par le premier courier je lui répéterai ces ordres d'une manière à lui fondre sa glace.

Je suis trop le serviteur de Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont, pour ne pas prendre une

part très sensible dans la grâce que le Roi lui fait, & je vous supplie de l'en assurer.

Il est tems de finir une lettre, que j'écris fort à la hâte, & que vous aurez peut-être de la peine à lire. Je suis avec le plus grand attachement, Monsieur, votre, &c.

En cas que l'Evêque de Tournay garde son évêché, nous croyons que l'Abbé Gaultier pourroit être déclaré son coadjuteur dès à présent, pour les raisons que nous avons autrefois touchées.

S'il y a des mesures à prendre de notre côté, vous n'avez qu'à me les marquer, car nous sommes entièrement disposés à lui faire plaisir, & en effet il a bien mérité de la France & de l'Angleterre.

A Monsieur de Torcy.

MONSIEUR,

De Whitehall, ce 26me Novembre, V.S. 1712.

QUOIQUE la mort du Duc d'Hamilton, & quelques autres incidens qui sont survenus, aient retardé le retour de Monsieur Prior en France, & causé des lon-

guez dans une affaire, qui n'en devroit souffrir aucune, je crois que la résolution que la Reine vient de prendre réparera cette perte de tems, & préviendra tous les obstacles qui pourroient encore faire trainer la conclusion de notre grande ouvrage.

Sa Majesté a nommé le Duc de Shrewsbury pour être son Ambassadeur en France, & comme il partira d'ici sans attendre ses équipages, j'espère que dans quinze jours, à compter de la fin de cette semaine, il arrivera à Paris.

Je vous envoie une convention pour la prolongation de la suspension d'armes; vous aurez la bonté d'en signer une copie, & de me la faire tenir au retour de ce courier.

J'ai cru que la clause de ratification n'étoit pas nécessaire d'y être inférée; si vous jugez autrement, vous n'avez qu'à adresser la ratification du Roi à l'Abbé Gaultier, & je ne manquerai pas de lui faire avoir immédiatement celle de la Reine.

La renonciation du Roi d'Espagne à la Couronne de France, a été faite dans les termes le plus forts, & de la manière la plus solennelle. Sa Majesté ne doute pas que les renonciations du Duc de Berry & du
Duc

Duc d'Orléans, ne soient conçues dans des termes également forts, & que tous les autres actes nécessaires pour l'accomplissement de ce grand article ne se fassent d'une manière également solennelle & authentique. Mais, Monsieur, pour prendre nos mesures plus sûrement, pour prévenir le moindre mésentendu qui pourroit causer du retardement dans le cours de cette affaire, la Reine m'a commandé de vous faire savoir, qu'elle souhaite d'avoir les copies des renonciations du Duc de Berry & du Duc d'Orléans à tout droit sur la Couronne d'Espagne, aussi-bien que des autres actes qui doivent être à cette occasion faits selon le projet pour prévenir la réunion des deux monarchies contenu dans les articles proposés par la Reine le 6^{me} de Juin, V.S. & accepté par le Roi le 22^{me} du même mois, N.S. 1712. Si je ne reçois pas ce que j'ai l'honneur de vous demander présentement, assez à tems pour que Monsieur le Duc de Shrewsbury puisse, avant son départ, recevoir là-dessus les derniers ordres de la Reine, je compte pourtant que s'il ne fait pas les sentimens de sa Majesté en partant de Londres, il les fera du moins en arrivant à Paris. Je suis, Monsieur, &c.

B.

To the Queen.

MADAM,

Whitehall, November 28th, 1712.

THE necessity which my Lord Treasurer lies under of qualifying himself to be Governor, and which I lie under as Director of the South Sea Company, obliges us both to be in town on Sunday, of which I thought it my duty to acquaint your Majesty, and humbly to beg to be excused my attendance at Windsor.

Foreign letters we have none to trouble your Majesty with. I dispatched, yesterday morning at break of day, a courier to the Court of France, with two copies of an act for prolonging the suspension, executed by myself, one of which is to be returned executed by Monsieur de Torcy. This was to have been done, pursuant to your Majesty's order, by Mr. Prior; but as it is very possible he may not arrive in time, and as any interval between the expiration and renewal of the suspension, would cause great confusion, and be of very mischievous consequence to your Majesty's trading subjects, my Lords of the Council thought proper to
lose

lose not a moment in sending over the convention to France, which will, by this method, be returned soon enough.

I have likewise, at my Lord Dartmouth's desire, writ to Monsieur de Torcy, that he should send, by the same courier, draughts of the renunciations to be made in France, and of the other forms which are to be passed in that kingdom for the complete execution of the article agreed upon to prevent the union of the two monarchies. I think this should have been sooner asked, but hope we are still in time.

Finding the merchants have not observed the notice formerly given about passes and certificates, when they sail to the North Sea, and to the Baltic, the same is to be renewed in the Gazette to-morrow.

Some of your Majesty's messengers whom I sent to the coast, very narrowly missed taking Mackartney near to Ipswich, they are still in pursuit of him, and not without hopes of success. I am, Madam,

Your Majesty's most dutiful, &c.

To the Lords Plenipotentiaries.

MY LORDS,

Whitehall, November 28th, 1712.

I MUST not omit to put your Lordships in mind of what I writ some time ago, concerning the Duke de St. Pierre, by her Majesty's particular command. The Queen, my Lords, not only thinks the case of this gentleman very hard, and his demand very reasonable, but she is extremely inclined, in consideration of his relation to Monsieur de Torcy, to do him all the good offices possible; your Lordships will, therefore, please to interest yourselves in this affair as in a cause which her Majesty espouses; and to let the Ministers of France know, that you are instructed to concur with them in the most effectual measures of obtaining satisfaction to the Duc de St. Pierre.

I am, my Lords, &c.

I have sent two parts executed of a convention for prolonging the suspension to France, and expect one of them back in a few days; the prolongation is for four months; God forbid the term should prove necessary!

De Monsieur de Torcy.

A Versailles, ce 29^{me} Novembre, 1712.

IL vous est aisé, my Lord, d'assurer que je serai content de vous, puisque vous savez par expérience que vous y réussirez toutes les fois que vous le voudrez, & vous l'avez voulu lorsque vous avez dressé l'article, que vous me faites l'honneur de me communiquer des instructions de Monsieur le Comte de Strafford. Il est tel qu'il convient pour avancer une décision que je ne crois plus douteuse de la part des Hollandois. L'état de leurs affaires ne leur permet plus de soutenir la guerre, & certainement ils sont trop heureux qu'on leur fassent l'honneur de les presser de faire la paix, dont ils ont plus de besoin qu'aucune autre nation.

Ils ne refuseront par les bons offices de la Reine, & je vous avoue, my Lord, qu'au milieu de l'intérêt public, je ressens la joie particulière de voir Matthieu échappé du péril dont il étoit menacé. J'y perds cependant une harangue qui auroit été des plus touchantes, mais j'en serai dédommagé par d'autres avantages.

Le Roi a été très sensible, Monsieur, à
l'attention

l'attention que vous avez eu de faire arrêter le nommé Beaulieu. Je saurai de Monsieur de Baille quel est cet homme, car il n'est pas connu ici, & vous savez mieux que personne, combien les projets de ces malheureux sont ordinairement visionnaires. Je vous supplie cependant, pour les raisons que vous remarquez vous-même avec beaucoup de prudence, de vouloir bien m'avertir de ce que vous aurez découvert de ses intrigues. Il est de l'intérêt réciproque de la France & de la Grande Bretagne, que rien ne trouble la tranquillité des deux royaumes, & que les particuliers qui oseroient tenter de l'altérer, soient sûrement punis. Vous jugerez peut-être que je mériterois de l'être moi-même, au sujet de l'impatience que je vous ai marquée par ma dernière lettre, & j'avoue que j'en ai été un peu honteux après avoir lu ce que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire ; mais, en vérité, my Lord, on ne peut désirer vivement & attendre tranquillement ; & je croirois faire tort à l'ouvrage si j'en attendois la perfection sans aucun mouvement de vivacité.

Je souhaite que Monsieur Prior vous ait rendu une compte fidelle de celle qu'on a ici pour

vous,

vous, mais je doute de son exactitude sur cet article. Si je ne me trompe, & si je le soupçonne mal-à-propos, il pourra, my Lord, à son retour ici vous informer de la préférence qu'il y a de plus admirable, lorsqu'on le compare avec vous. Ce n'est pas moi qui fais ces comparaisons, car il n'y a aucun à mon sens qui puisse vous convenir, comme je crois qu'il n'y a personne aussi qui vous soit plus attaché & plus sincèrement que je suis, Monsieur, &c.

DE TORCY.

To the Queen.

MADAM,

Whitehall, November 29th, 1712.

I RECEIVED last night a letter from Monsieur de Torcy, dated the 29th of this month, N.S. wherein there is nothing more than expressions of great satisfaction, in the orders given by your Majesty to the Earl of Strafford; of which I had given him a summary account, and very great earnestness still shown for the conclusion of the treaty.

The Dutch mail arrived this morning, and I have the honour to inclose to your Majesty

Majesty an abstract of the contents of the letters. I am, Madam,

With the humblest respect,

Your Majesty's, &c.

A Monsieur le Duc de St. Pierre.

De Whitehall, ce 2me Décembre, V.S. 1712.

EN vérité, Monsieur, le peu de service que j'ai été jusques-ici en état de vous rendre, ne mérite pas l'obligation que vous me témoignez en avoir. Bien loin d'être content de ce que j'ai fait, je ne manquerai pas de prendre toutes les mesures qui dépendent de moi, pour contribuer à la réussite de vos prétensions, & parmi les instructions les plus essentielles de Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Reine, ils trouveront dans chaque dépêche des ordres réitérés de se joindre aux Ministres du Roi Très Chrétienne en votre faveur. Je leur ai dit, & j'ai l'honneur de vous en assurer, qu'ils ne peuvent mieux faire leur cour à la Reine, qu'en appuyant vos intérêts de la manière la plus vive & la plus efficace.

Au reste, Monsieur, si dans le cours de cette affaire, vous trouvez à propos de me charger

charger de quelque nouvel ordre, je vous supplie de m'en écrire sans cérémonie, & d'être très persuadé que le beau-frère de Monsieur de Torcy a tout le droit du monde de commander absolument celui qui a l'honneur d'être avec une véritable estime, & très parfaitement, Monsieur, votre, &c.

To the Queen.

MADAM,

Whitehall, December the 1st, 1712.

BESIDES the foreign letters, whereof I have the honour to inclose an extract, I received this morning one from the Earl of Strafford. It is dated at the Hague, December 9th, N.S. and gives an account that he arrived on Saturday last at that place; that he had seen the Pensionary, the President of the week, and the Ministers deputed by the States-General to him; and that he had begun to execute your Majesty's commands, by making the overtures and declarations enjoined, in the terms of his instructions. My Lord judges that these measures are likely to have the effect which your Majesty proposes, and that the Dutch will sincerely endeavour

endeavour to finish within three weeks, which time he mentioned as sufficient for them to take their resolution in.

Count Sinzendorf, had likewise been with my Lord Strafford, and appeared much more easy than he expected to have found him.

Mr. Prior is this morning actually set out on his journey, and I hope fully instructed; at least, none of those little lights I could give him are wanting.

The Abbé Gaultier brought me just now a letter from the Marquis de Monteleon *, and there is another for the Earl of Dartmouth; this Minister is at Dover, and designs to arrive at London about noon on Thursday; by this particular account of his route, I cannot help thinking he expects some compliment at his arrival. I have ventured, therefore, to insinuate to my Lord Dartmouth, by Mr. Lewis, that it might be proper to do by him as Monsieur de Torcy did by me, to send a servant to meet him, and as soon as he comes to his lodging to see him, and perhaps, since he comes at that hour, to entertain him at dinner.

The Hanoverian Envoy, Baron Grote, re-

* Appointed Ambassador from the Court of Spain.

solved to come over in the yatch which carried my Lord Strafford, so that I expect every hour to hear of him. I am glad to find my Lord Privy Seal has a good opinion of him.

I have no letter from Mr. Scot, but believe he has at last been able to meet King Augustus, and hope the messenger will return with his letters some day this week.

I am, Madam, your Majesty's, &c.

To the Queen.

MADAM,

Whitehall, December the 2d, 1712.

SOON after I had sent away the letter which I did myself the honour yesterday to write to your Majesty, I received one from Prince Ragotsky, dated at Hull, and under the borrowed name of Count de Saaros. He is come to that port in a ship bound from Dantzick, and I find that the hints which Mr. Scot gave, according to your Majesty's order, have hindered him from any thoughts of paying his respects to your Majesty *. I am this moment putting in ex-

* Probably a fear of offending the Court of Vienna.

ecution the commands which some months ago your Majesty gave me, and hiring the same ship, or any other, to carry him to the coast of France; though the rules for observation of the quarantine, occasion some difficulty herein.

I was unwilling, without great reason to believe the report true, to mention the plague's being got to Presburg, in Hungary, and the shutting up some houses in Vienna; but I fear there can be no room to doubt of the certainty of this bad news. The Emperor, the Empress-Dowager, and the Arch-duchesses, are removing to Prague, and other places.

I have mentioned to my Lord Treasurer, what I took the liberty to mention to your Majesty about the reception of the Marquis de Monteleon, and my Lord thinks it should by no means be omitted; the rather, because, your Majesty's interest in point of commerce, depends on the keeping up that good humour which the Spaniards seem now to be in. I believe my Lord Treasurer will write to my Lord Dartmouth, if he is not in London, on this subject.

Brigadier Durell is dead at Dunkirk, by
which

which means that regiment which Mr. Hamilton has been so often wounded at the head of*, and which was taken from him to be given to young Godfrey, of whom Durell bought it, is become vacant.

I inclose a Licence in Blank for the ship which must carry the Prince Ragotsky, and some other Passes and Licences, for which the proper certificates have been produced. And am, with the humblest respect, Madam, &c.

A Monsieur le Comte de Saaros †.

MONSIEUR,

De Whitehall, ce 3me Décembre, 1712.

J'AI reçu Lundi passé l'honneur de votre lettre du 9me de ce mois, N.S. du port de
Hull,

* At Blenheim, and Schellenburgh.

† In this age of great characters and memorable events, perhaps those of the Ragotski family are not the least remarkable. George Ragotski, the father, Prince of Transylvania, aspired to the throne of Poland, and was opposed by the Turkish army, headed by the Grand Vizier. With comparatively a handful of men, Ragotski defeated the Turks; but his army lessening, being unassisted by any power in Europe, he was forced to give way, and his affairs declined; a peace was proposed, which the Turk rejected without the head of Ragotski; driven to despair, he attacked the Vizier's grand army with his few followers, and fell in the field of battle, in 1660. His widow married Count Tekeley, a Hungarian, and that country being oppressed and enslaved by the Austrian government, revolted, and Tekeley headed the insurgents with various
VOL. III. P success,

Hull, & la Reine étant encore au Château de Windsor, je n'ai pu vous répondre plutôt qu'aujourd'hui. Je dépêche ce soir les ordres de sa Majesté, tant au port de Hull qu'à celui de Harwich, pour vous faire trouver un bâtiment qui puisse vous transporter en France, sans aucun délai, en cas que le Capitaine du vaisseau, sur lequel vous êtes venu de Dantzick, ne soit pas content de faire ce petit voyage; de plus le Sieur Rosenau étant parti d'ici il y a quelque tems,

success, till he was forced to take refuge in Turkey, where he died. During this contest, the widow of Ragotski defended the castle of Montgatz, for her husband, with the bravery of a heroine, though at last she was forced to surrender, and one condition was, that her children by Ragotski, should be sent to Vienna, to be educated by the Emperor. She then followed her husband to Turkey, where, after his death, the pension of the Ottoman Court was withdrawn, and she was reduced to become a vender of wine in an obscure village, in Bulgaria, where she died in 1703. Her son, Prince Ragotski (to whom this letter is addressed) though educated in, and habituated to, the principles of Austrian government, upon his return to Hungary, could not look upon the wretched and oppressed state of his native country with the eye of indifference. The Hungarians revolted, and chose Ragotski their general, who with diversified fortune, sometimes carrying fire and sword to the walls of Vienna, and at others forced to retreat to the wilds of Hungary, kept up a contest of doubtful issue till 1711. The Hungarians then, as much tired of the contest as the Emperor, agreed to terms proposed by the latter; but these articles being either unequal to Ragotski's ambition, or in his judgment not sufficient for the security and welfare of his country, he left Hungary, and is at the time of this letter retiring to the Court of France.

je

je vous renvoye la lettre que vous m'avez adressé pour lui.

Je vous souhaite, Monsieur, un heureux passage, & je vous supplie de croire que je suis, très parfaitement, Monsieur, &c.

A Monseigneur le Duc de Savoye.

MONSEIGNEUR,

De Whitehall, ce 4^{me} Décembre, V.S. 1712.

JE suis, je l'avoue, au comble de mes souhaits, puisque votre Altesse Royale a daigné témoigner qu'elle est contente de ma conduite, & l'honneur qu'elle vient de me faire par sa lettre du 16^{me} du mois d'Octobre, que Monsieur de Mellaredé m'a rendu, rempliroit une ambition beaucoup plus démesurée que la mienne ; la meilleure manière dont je pourrai répondre à tant de grâce & tant de bonté, sera de continuer avec le même zèle qui m'a toujours animé à travailler pour les intérêts du Prince du monde qui mérite le plus à régner.

Votre Altesse Royale sera sans doute informé, par le rapport de son Ministre, combien la Reine est disposée à lui faire réussir toutes ses prétensions.

Il n'y a pas, que je sâche, un seule proposition, dans toutes les représentations de Monsieur de Mallarede, à laquelle sa Majesté n'ait consenti ; & j'ai l'honneur d'affurer votre Altesse Royale, que les instructions tant de Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires que du Duc de Shrewsbury, qui doit aller en peu de jours à la Cour de France, sont conformes à ce qu'elle souhaite, & dressées même sur les inémoires de ses Ministres.

Je ne dois pas finir cette lettre, sans marquer à votre Altesse Royale la vive reconnoissance dont je suis pénétrée de ce qu'elle a bien voulu à ma prière, accorder l'Abbaye d'Abondance à Monsieur l'Abbé de Tencin.

Comme les obligations que je vous dois, Monseigneur, sont au-dessus de toute expression, je me bornerai à affurer votre Altesse Royale que mon attachement très respectueux ne finira qu'avec ma vie, & que parmi ceux qui ont le bonheur d'être ses sujets, il n'y a personne qui lui soit plus dévoué que, Monseigneur, de votre Altesse Royale, le très humble, très fidelle, & très obeissant serviteur.

De Monsieur de Torcy.

A Versailles, le 10^{me} Décembre, 1712.

APRES vous avoir fatigué, Monsieur, d'une de mes lettres, je réponds à celle que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire de votre main, & que j'ai reçu par La Vigne. Vous me faites beaucoup de plaisir d'approuver mon impatience ; il m'eut été impossible de m'en corriger, quand même vous l'auriez condamnée, & je serois bien fâché de conserver un défaut que vous me reprocheriez.

Un de ceux de la nation Françoisé est d'être vive & impatiente, & quand les réponses sur une affaire aussi importante que celle de la paix tardent au gré du public, il s'élève de voix sans nombre contre ceux qu'il croit avoir part à la conduire. Quelquefois aussi l'intérêt particulier appuye le censure du public, & je vous assure, qu'il y a des momens où le Stoicien le plus parfait auroit peine à garder sa tranquillité. Enfin, my Lord, si nous ne sommes pas obligés ici à ménager les esprits, nous trouvons au moins, & nous éprouvons tous les jours, que malgré la différence des nations, tous les

hommes se ressembtent fort dans leur manière de penser. Continuez donc, je vous supplie, à ne pas condamner l'impatience que je vous fait paroître, quoique je sois convaincu que vous ne perdez pas un moment à mettre la dernière main à l'ouvrage : sans vos soins il ne feroit pas en l'état où nous le voyons.

J'espère que le Comte de Strafford dissipera toutes les intrigues formées pour empêcher la conclusion, & qu'enfin il amortira l'esprit guerrier qui règne en Hollande. Il paroît qu'on s'y flattoit encore de retenir Monsieur le Duc de Savoye dans les intérêts de la Maison d'Autriche. On lui promettoit des offices puissans & sûrs pour faire épouser au Prince de Piémont l'aînée des Archiduchesses, & comme le langage change suivant les conjonctures, on prétend que Monsieur le Pensionnaire se feroit fort que la proposition seroit appuyée par la France & par la Grande Bretagne. Vous m'assurez, Monsieur, qu'il n'y a pas lieu de faire attention à de pareils projets, ainsi je suis persuadé que Monsieur le Duc de Savoye est trop éclairé pour ajouter foi aux insinuations des Ministres Impériaux soutenues même de celles

celles des Hollandois, & pour s'exposer à perdre le fruit de tout ce que la Reine a fait pour lui.

Vous savez, Monsieur, quelle est la voix de retraite que la Cour de Vienne prépare à Monsieur de Staremborg, & que regardant vos vaisseaux à-peu-près comme le Roi de Perse, on veut qu'il s'embarque, lui & ses dix-mille, sur les frégates que Monsieur Heimes fait équiper à Amsterdam. On menace déjà Monsieur le Duc de Savoye du séjour que ces troupes, transportées de Catalogne en Italie, feront dans le Milanés.

Il est en vérité de l'intérêt public, de la justice, & du bien de la paix, que le Roi, de concert avec la Reine, prennent ensemble des mesures pour tirer les Princes de l'Italie de l'oppression où les Allemands les tiennent. A la vérité, la conduite de ces Princes ne mérite pas de grands égards de la part de la France, mais il faut avoir compassion de leur foiblesse, & les préserver de l'avidité de ceux qui veulent tout dévorer.

Il fait de tems si fâcheux que je ferai en peine de Matthieu, jusqu'à ce que je le voie ; puisqu'il ne doit pas être pendu, je seroit bien fâché qu'il fut noyé ; quand son Ex-

cellence fera ici, on attendra plus tranquillement l'Ambassadeur que vous substituerez au Duc d'Hamilton. La mort de ce dernier est bien malheureuse; & c'est un grand avantage pour un royaume, que de pouvoir en bannir la fureur de ces combats où périssent ceux qui peuvent quelquefois servir très utilement l'état.

Je compte que vous aurez incessamment à Londres le Marquis de Montéleon; je l'ai pressé de s'y rendre, parce que j'espère que vous pourrez aplanir avec lui les difficultés que my Lord Lexington trouvera à traiter avec les Espagnols. La diligence n'est pas le caractère de la nation, & souvent l'ignorance augmente encore sa lenteur naturelle. Montéleon a de l'esprit & de bonnes intentions, & j'espère que vous trouverez qu'il facilitera tout ce qui aura pu faire quelque peine à Madrid. Il me reste à vous remercier, my Lord, de l'article de votre lettre qui regarde le Duc de St. Pierre; quoique je sois très sensible à ses intérêts, j'avoue que je le suis encore d'avantage à cette marque de l'honneur de votre amitié, & que rien ne me toucheroit d'avantage que de pouvoir vous témoigner à quel point je ressens la nouvelle
preuve

preuve que vous voulez bien m'en donner. La continuation de vos bons offices fera très nécessaire à Monsieur de St. Pierre, & pour vous informer plus particulièrement de ses justes demandes, permettez-moi, my Lord, de vous en envoyer un mémoire imprimé que je reçois de lui.

Je me suis acquitté de vos ordres à l'égard de Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont, & je lui ai lu l'article de votre lettre qui le regarde. Il aura bientôt le plaisir de vous remercier lui-même de l'intérêt que vous avez pris à la grâce que le Roi a voulu lui faire avant son départ.

Pour moi, Monsieur, je trouverai autant de charmes au visage de bois qu'à Madame de Parabese, quand j'apprendrai par lui de vos nouvelles. Je n'aurois peut-être pas osé me servir de cette honorable épithète, si je ne le croyois présentement en deçà de la mer, & par conséquent hors d'état de ma lettre. Je ne voudrois pas qu'il eut aucune reproche à me faire à son arrivée, car il trouveroit le moyen de s'en venger. Je suis, avec un attachement, &c.

DE TORCY.

J'écrivis,

J'écrivis, il y a quelques jours, à l'Abbé, ce que je pensois sur la fantaisie qui lui est venu d'être évêque. Les hommes demandent souvent à Dieu ce qui feroit leur perte, & il rejette les vœux de ceux qu'il aime. Il ne faut pas que celui qui a tant travaillé au repos public, soit mis dans une place où il feroit tourmenté toute sa vie. Et en verité, my Lord, ce que les amis de l'Abbé Gaultier doivent souhaiter & demander pour lui, est une bonne abbaye dont il puisse à son aise toucher & manger les revenus, sans être obligé de s'embarasser des soins d'un diocèse tel principalement que celui de Tournay, où il auroit à ménager différentes puissances, & être toujours exposé à des embarras sans nombre & sans fin. Le Roi est très-bien disposé en sa faveur, & certainement une abbaye considérable le lui manquera bien.

De Monsieur de Torcy.

A Versailles, ce 11^{me} Decembre, 1712.

JE reçois, Monsieur, avec beaucoup de plaisir, les assurances que vous me donnez par votre lettre du 21^{me} Novembre . . . 2^{me} Decembre, d'une prochaine conclusion de la
paix.

paix. Quand je ne ferois pas ainsi disposé que je le suis à vous croire, il ne seroit pas permis, ce me semble, de douter du succès d'une négociation dont le Roi & la Reine de la Grande Bretagne pressent également la fin par les moyens les plus capables de l'avancer.

J'espère donc, Monsieur, que les premières nouvelles d'Hollande, après l'arrivée de Monsieur le Comte de Strafford, apprendront que les Hollandois auront enfin cédé à la fermité de sa Majesté Britannique, & si la cabale des guerriers engageoit cette République à prendre une autre parti, rien ne seroit plus capable de ramener enfin les Hollandois à la raison, & à leurs véritables intérêts, que la résolution que la Reine a prise de signer un traité particulier avec le Roi & avec le Roi d'Espagne où seroient admis ceux des alliés de sa Majesté Britannique qui voudroient y entrer.

Vous avez raison, Monsieur, à croire que le Roi est content de cette résolution, & vous avez vu depuis le commencement de la négociation que sa Majesté a toujours agi comme persuadé que les effets répondroient ainsi qu'ils ont répondu, parfaitement à la confiance entière qu'elle a témoignée à sa Majesté Britannique.

C'est

C'est avec plaisir, Monsieur, que le Roi a vu ce que vous m'annoncez en général des ordres que Monsieur Prior doit avoir au sujet des intérêts de Monsieur l'Electeur de Bavière. La Reine de la Grande Bretagne a tant fait pour Monseigneur le Duc de Savoye, qu'elle peut aisément comprendre par elle-même à quel point sa Majesté s'intéresse à l'état de l'Electeur, & à lui procurer un dédommagement de ses pertes. Permettez-moi, Monsieur, de ne pas convenir entièrement de ce que vous marquez à cette occasion au sujet de Tournay, car il est vrai, & je puis vous en assurer, que le Roi lui auroit volontiers cédé cette place pour augmenter son dédommagement. Si Monsieur le Duc de Savoye borne ses prétensions aux offres que le Roi lui a faits, toutes les difficultés sur la barrière que ce Prince demande du côté de la France sont aplanies, car il ne reste plus que la liberté qu'il souhaite avoir de fortifier; & sa Majesté veut bien la lui accorder, à la considération de la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, pourvu qu'il s'engage en même-tems à s'en tenir au traité de Turin de 1696, sur l'article de Pignerole, & à laisser cette place enfermée d'une

d'une simple muraille, sans pouvoir en reléver les fortifications.

Mais vous me remettez, Monsieur, à ce que Monsieur Prior est chargé de dire sur l'article de Monsieur le Duc de Savoye, ainsi je l'attends pour en parler, aussi-bien que pour convenir avec lui des deux difficultés que vous trouvez encore dans les projets de traités dressés à Utrecht. J'espère qu'il arrivera si bien instruit des intentions de la Reine, que l'on conviendra facilement des expédiens à prendre pour établir incessamment l'union parfaite entre les Plénipotentiaires du Roi, & ceux de la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, aux conférences d'Utrecht.

Ainsi, Monsieur, vous aurez le plaisir de voir votre jugement confirme, & de nous trouver bientôt au jour de la conclusion d'une bonne paix qui doit faire le bonheur de tant de peuples.

Comme il faut en attendant éviter avec soin que ceux qui depuis quatre mois ne se regardent plus comme ennemis, ne recommencent entr'eux des actes d'hostilités, le Roi juge qu'il n'y a pas un moment de tems à perdre à faire publier son ordonnance pour la prolongation de la suspension d'armes, qui expire, comme
vous

vous le savez, Monsieur, le 22me de ce mois. Je vous envoie le projet de cette ordonnance, & je puis encore recevoir votre réponse par le courier que je vous dépêche, avant que le terme soit expiré. Je vous supplie donc de me faire savoir, si ce projet sera conforme aux sentimens de la Reine, & sa Majesté Britannique fera faire de son côté une semblable proclamation. Il faudroit dans les règles qu'elle fut précédée d'une convention signée au nom & en vertu des pouvoirs du Roi & de ceux de la Reine de la Grande Bretagne. Si Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont étoit présentement à Londres, il pourroit, Monsieur, signer cette convention avec vous, ou bien je la signerois avec Monsieur Prior, s'il étoit ici ; mais l'ordonnance & la proclamation supposeront la chose faite, & l'essentiel est de faire connoître la volonté du Roi & celle de la Reine, sur la continuation de la suspension.

On peut encore faire signer à Utrecht, par Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires, la continuation de la suspension jusqu'à la paix. Le Roi l'ordonner aux siens & la chose sera bientôt conclue, si ceux de la Reine de la Grande Bretagne ont les mêmes ordres. Pour éviter cependant tout inconvénient par mer, le Roi fait

écrire

écrire dans les ports, que la suspension sera prolongée. Voilà, Monsieur, toutes les précautions que l'on peut prendre.

Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont a pris congé du Roi, il partira de Paris Jeudi prochain, & comme il espère que la Reine voudra bien lui envoyer un de ses yachts à Calais, il vous dépêchera un courier pour vous informer précisément, Monsieur, du jour qu'il pourra s'y rendre.

Le Roi a été bien fâché d'apprendre la malheureuse aventure du Duc d'Hamilton : on nomme encore incertainement celui qui doit venir ici en sa place, mais sa Majesté est bien persuadée qu'un sujet nommé par la Reine n'aura rien de plus à cœur, que de fortifier l'intelligence & l'union qu'une bonne paix doit bientôt rétablir. Je vous supplie de croire que je suis, Monsieur, votre, &c.

DE TORCY.

De Monsieur de Torcy.

MONSIEUR,

A Versailles, le 14^{me} Décembre, 1712.

J'AI reçu par un courier exprès la lettre que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire le 26^{me} Novembre ... 7^{me} Décembre, avec
l'acte

l'acte double signe de vous, que vous m'avez envoyé, pour prolonger pendant quatre mois encore la suspension d'armes. Je l'ai signé par ordre du Roi, & sa Majesté m'a commandé de vous renvoyer un des doubles, comme je le fais, Monsieur, par le même courier. La publication servira de ratification, ainsi je crois qu'il est inutile d'en expédier de part & d'autre. J'espère aussi qu'une bonne paix fera bientôt cesser la nécessité de ces derniers actes, & comme Monsieur le Comte de Strafford est arrivé à Utrecht, il n'y a pas lieu de douter qu'on ne voie incessamment l'effet des déclarations, qu'il aura faites par ordre de la Reine.

Je vous envoie, comme vous le souhaitez, les copies des renonciations faites à la couronne d'Espagne, par Monseigneur le Duc de Berry, & par Monseigneur le Duc d'Orléans. Les modèles en ont été dressés à Madrid, & comme ils avoient été communiqués à Monsieur le Comte de Lexington, je ne doutois pas, Monsieur, qu'il ne les eut envoyés à sa Majesté Britannique. Vous trouverez que les termes n'en sont pas moins forts que ceux de la renonciation du Roi d'Espagne, & que les mêmes expressions ont été employées dans les endroits où elles étoient nécessaires.

Le seul acte qui reste à faire est celui des lettres patentes que le Roi enverra dans ses Parlemens, pour y faire enrégistrer la renonciation du Roi d'Espagne. Comme il a paru nécessaire d'attendre qu'il y eut ici quelqu'un de la part de la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, avant que d'expédier ces lettres, je ne manquerai pas de vous en envoyer aussi la copie, aussitôt que Monsieur Prior sera arrivé, s'il précède, comme je le crois, l'arrivée de Monsieur le Duc de Shrewsbury.

La Reine ne pouvoit faire choix d'un Ambassadeur plus distingué par son rang & par ses qualités personnelles, & cette nomination a été d'autant plus agréable au Roi que sa Majesté fait qu'il a une parfaite connoissance de tout ce qui s'est passé pendant le cours de la négociation, dont j'espère que nous verrons bientôt le parfait accomplissement. Je vous supplie de croire, &c.

DE TORCY.

A Monsieur de Torcy.

De Whitehall, ce 13^{me} Décembre, V.S. 1712.

LE courier de l'Abbé Gaultier m'ayant apporté l'acte pour la prolongation de la suspension d'armes, elle a été, Monsieur, sans perte

de tems, publiée selon nos formes, par ordre de la Reine dans son conseil.

Matthieu sera présentement arrivé auprès de vous, le Duc de Shrewsbury s'embarque demain, & l'Abbé Gaultier se donne l'honneur de vous écrire sur deux articles que vous touchez dans une de vos lettres, & qui demandent de l'éclaircissement ; ainsi, Monsieur, je serois fort déraisonnable si j'abusois de votre patience par la longueur de celle-ci.

Le Marquis de Monteleon répond assurément au caractère que vous m'avez donné de lui, il paroît disposé à éviter des longueurs qui dans la conjoncture présente sont dangereuses. J'espère que dans peu de jours nous recevrons des lettres du commissaire que la Reine a envoyé il y a quelque tems, pour expliquer, avec les Ministres du Roi d'Espagne, de certains articles qui regardent le commerce ; & je suis persuadé que dans deux conférences avec le Duc de Shrewsbury vous leverez tous les autres obstacles à la conclusion de la paix, qui, grâces à Dieu ! sont en très petit nombre, & ne sont pas de la dernière conséquence.

Je me suis donné l'honneur d'écrire à Monsieur le Duc de St. Pierre, & je me flatte que
vous

vous êtes persuadé, Monsieur, que je ne négligerai rien de tout ce qui dépend de moi pour l'avancement de ses intérêts ; il suffit qu'il vous appartienne pour que je sois dévoué à son service.

Je vous avoue, Monsieur, que je suis entièrement de votre opinion à l'égard de l'Abbé Gaultier, qui est fort heureux d'avoir un patron tel que vous l'êtes.

Parmi toute la joie qu'un honnête homme doit sentir à l'approche de la paix, j'ai la mortification de considérer que j'aurai rarement le prétexte de vous écrire ; ne m'oubliez pourtant pas, Monsieur, mais conservez quelque amitié pour un homme qui a pour vous la plus haute estime, & l'amitié la plus tendre, & qui fera toute sa vie, votre, &c. B.

A Monsieur de Torcy.

MONSIEUR,

De Whitehall, ce 16me Décembre, V.S. 1712.

LE Baron de Walef* persistant dans son dessein de vouloir passer en France, je n'ai pu

* Walef commanded the dragoons of Liege, in Flanders, in the Queen's pay. Upon the separation of the British forces from the combined army, Walef was singular in following the Duke of Ormond, for the rest of our mercenaries followed Eugene ; this conduct probably offended his master, and he was now on his way to France, to solicit a command under Louis XIV.

me dispenser de vous écrire cette lettre, & de vous assurer que c'est un officier d'un mérite distingué.

J'ajouterai qu'il est beaucoup de mes amis, & que je serois ravi de savoir qu'il étoit assez heureux de vous avoir pour son protecteur.

Je suis, &c.

B.

From Mr. Prior.*

MY LORD,

Verfailles, December 17-28th, 1712.

I ARRIVED at Paris the 7-18th, Sunday, having gone the day before about four leagues out of my way to meet the Duke d'Aumont, who was then on his way to England; I thought my so doing showed respect to a man of his quality, and I hope the conversation I had with him may set him right, as to some company that may probably offer themselves to him upon his arrival at London.

I went on Monday to Versailles, and immediately found a gentleman with a compli-

* This letter was printed in Lord Hardwicke's Collection.

ment from Monsieur de Torcy, how much he longed to see me, &c. which as soon as he did, he fell upon the topic of Tournay, and the Elector of Bavaria; he will not allow that Prince's interest to be sufficiently secured, since he is only to have a temporary and conditional provision allowed to him, in those provinces of which the States are in the mean time to be the real masters; who, notwithstanding what is now stipulated for him, may turn him out at their pleasure, except some guaranty is formed in his behalf to put it out of their power, as it may be in their will, to hurt him; not but that, all this while, the Court of France is very well pleased with what the Queen has done, but that they wish she would do more, and that some farther temperament may easily be found to secure the States-General from any apprehensions they may lie under, from the Elector's being too near them, and screen that Prince's honour a little from being, as Monsieur de Torcy calls it, under Dutch guards *.

I need not tell your arguments, for I had

* The Elector of Bavaria was to be Governor of Flanders, where the towns were garrisoned by the Dutch.

them from you, my Lord, which I used to Monsieur de Torcy upon this occasion; in short, the whole matter lies so, that the peace may go on upon it, which is the point we sought, and the Queen may do more for this Prince, as her interest and generosity persuade; Count Monostrole * saw Monsieur de Torcy the same night, paid me a visit the next morning, and expressed in the civilest terms imaginable the great obligations his Master has to her Majesty, but still insisting, that she is the arbitress of Europe, and may, as she pleases, relieve a Prince who will have an eternal sense of her goodness: Monostrole went the same day to Compeigne, to the Elector, and you will hear more of him yet before I close my letter.

The next morning I had an audience of the King, in which I repeated to him (according to my instructions) the desire her Majesty had, that the negociation, which had been too long obstructed, should be brought to a speedy conclusion; and that her Majesty had given such orders to her Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht, as might most effectually oblige the States-General without delay to enter into

* The Bavarian Envoy.

her measures, and such as might at the same time most properly conduce to favour the Elector of Bavaria's interest as his Majesty desired. He interrupted me, and said, he hoped the giving up of Tournay would have that effect, and that her Majesty could not oblige him more in any thing; that he desired as much as possible the conclusion of the peace, and a good correspondence between the nations, and did, and would do all he could to obtain it, of which he said I should assure her Majesty, and return his thanks to her for the letter *qu'elle a eu la bonté de m'écrire.*

I went on to say, there remained between their Majesties, some bounds in North America to be regulated, and some general points to be settled, upon which a treaty of commerce might be founded; he answered, that his Ministers had received his full orders upon those heads; as to what I added, that her Majesty had named the Duke of Shrewsbury her Ambassador for France, he answered, that the Queen had done him a great pleasure in naming a person of the merit and quality of that Lord.

I have gone over the other points of my instructions with Monsieur de Torcy, as to

the difficulties from Madrid, concerning the tenure of Sicily, and its remaining any way feudatory to Spain.

I have for answer, that the Most Christian King understands that the cession of that kingdom is agreed, and shall be executed in the sense in which her Majesty has understood it, and to be clogged with no other restriction than that of its being neither alienated nor changed without the consent of Spain, and that the Marquis de Monteleon has full powers from King Philip, to declare himself upon that point to her Majesty's satisfaction; of this, I believe, your Lordship will be satisfied before you receive my letter, for I met the Marquis de Monteleon near Dover, and he told me the substance of what I now write to you.

As to the barrier insisted upon by the Duke of Savoy, Monsieur de Torcy refers me to his last letter to your Lordship, in which he plainly says, that the whole affair is adjusted as much as ever it will be; that his Royal Highness has liberty to fortify his frontier, upon the private assurance given that he will not fortify Pignerol; that he has more on the side of France than he has had for 140 years past, and that what he

now

now asks is the ancient domain of the Crown; that he has more reason to be satisfied than any Prince in the war, and that the King hopes he will not fatigue the Queen any farther, after her having obtained such vast acquisitions for him.

The Cardinal de Tremouille writes from Rome to this Court, that 1500 Germans are ready to embark at Naples, in pretence for Sardinia, but in reality for Sicily; this is a matter which nearly regards the Duke of Savoy, and is worth our immediate notice; the most expeditious way of sending any orders hereupon to our fleet, your Lordship knows, will be through this kingdom to Genoa.

As to the interests of the Duke of Lorraine which I told Monsieur de Torcy the Queen had ordered me to mention here, as she had instructed her Plenipotentiaries to sustain them at Utrecht, I have as favourable an answer as I could hope; I send your Lordship inclosed the memorial I gave, and the answer (1); I shall impart it to the Minister
of

(1) *Réponse de Monsieur de Torcy.*

Le Duc de Lorraine a représenté à la Reine de la Grande Bretagne,

Le Roi rendra à Monsieur le Duc de Lorraine les lieux dont

Qu'il est en droit de rentrer dans les lieux & places de Lorraine

of that Prince here, that he may plead the particularities of his Master's pretensions.

I come to our own point, so long discussed and so very much embroiled; I mean that of Newfoundland.

The project of a treaty with France, which I brought over, was received from the Plenipotentiaries the 8th April, 1712, as I find upon the indorsement; Monsieur de Torcy shows me another plan, entitled, *Projet proposé par l'Angleterre*, received from their Plenipotentiaries the 8th August, 1712. I send your Lordship a transcript of the differ-

dont sa Majesté s'est mise en possession, par convenance, & pour la sûreté de la frontière de son royaume, pendant la présente guerre.

" Sa Majesté exécutera les conditions du traité de Ryfwick qui regardent ce Prince.

" Il peut faire donner les mémoires au Roi par son Envoyé ici, ou bien aux Plénipotentiaires de sa Majesté à Utrecht."

" A Versailles, ce 28me Décembre, 1712."

Lorraine que la France a occupées à l'occasion de cette présente guerre, pour sa convenance particulière; comme aussi,

" De recouvrir la possession des places qui doivent lui être rendues par le traité de Ryfwick.

" Les particularités des prétentions de Monseigneur le Duc de Lorraine doivent être ajustées aux conférences générales à Utrecht; sa Majesté de la Grande Bretagne s'attend en même-tems que les Plénipotentiaires de sa Majesté Très Chrétienne soient pourvus des ordres favorables aux justes demandes de ce Prince, c'est ce qu'elle a lieu d'espérer de l'équité & de la générosité de sa Majesté Très Chrétienne."

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ent articles of these two projects (2 & 3)
relating to Newfoundland, as likewise an
extract

(2) "*Project of a treaty with France, received from the Plenipotentiaries, in letter, 8th April, 1712.*

" Art. 11. Dominus Rex Christianissimus eodem quo pacis præsentis rati-habitiones commutabuntur die, Dom. Reg. Mag. Brit. Literas, Tabulasve solennes, & authenticas tradendas curabit, quarum vigore insulam St. Christophori, ut & insulam Terræ Novæ, una cum Placentia urbe, & fortalitio cæterisque *insulis mari circumfluo sitis** Acadium pariter, ut & Portus Regij Urbem, aliàs Annapolin Regiam dictam, cæteraque omnia in istis regionibus, quæ ab iisdem terris, & insulis pendent, unâ cum earundem Insularum, terrarum, & locorum dominio, proprietate, possessione, & quocunque jure, five per pacta, five alio modo quæsito, quod Rex Christ. corona Galliæ aut ejusdem subditi quicunque ad dictas insulas hætenus habuerunt aut habere se existimârunt, Reginae Magnæ Brit. ejusdemque coronæ in perpetuum cedi constabit & transferri, idque tam amplis modo & formâ, ut Regis Christ. subditis prohibitum in posterum sit, in dictis insulis & terris adjacentibus loca aliqua munire aut etiam sedem figere, aut in earundem maribus, sinibus aliisve locis piscaturam exercere †."

(3) "*Projet proposé par l'Angleterre, reçu des Plénipotentiaires le 8me d'Avrîl, 1712.*

" Art. 12. Quandoquidem insula Terræ Novæ, unâ cum parvulis eidem proximè adjacentibus insulis, quotquot ibidem existunt, per coronam Magnæ Britanniae possessa olim fuerunt, prout nunc temporis maximâ ex parte possidentur conventum igitur est quod eadem insula de Terra Novâ, unâ cum prædictis parvulis insulis eidem adjacentibus, juris Britannici in posterum omnino erit. Eumque in finem Placentia urbs & Fortalitium, unâ cum tormentis & apparatu bellico ibidem existentibus, per Regem Christ. commissionem eâ in parte a Regina Magnæ Britanniae habentibus intra menses a commutatis

* Et insulis adjacentibus.

† Ad majorem hujus articuli illustrationem, conventum est quod insula Cap Breton dicta Gallici juris in posterum erit, una cum facultate locum aliquem in eadem insulâ pro lubitu muniendi, conventum similiter est quod jus piscaturæ, piscesque in terrâ siccandi quo Galli in maribus ut & insulâ de Terrâ Novâ olim, & hætenus gavisi sunt iisdem in posterum absque omni molestia manebit.

extract of some letters (4 & 5) from our Plenipotentiaries to your Lordship, and amongst
your's

mutatis hujus tractatus rectificationem tabulis, aux citius si fieri potest, cedentur & tradentur, neque aliquid juris ad dictam insulam aut insulas, ullamve illius aut earundem partem, Rex Christi. hæredes ejus aut successores aut subditi aliqui Gallici, ullo de hinc tempore in posterum sibi vindicabunt. Piscatura autem circa dictam insulam & libertas ibidem pisces exsiccandi ita statuatur, ut alibi quam in regione dictæ insulæ vulgo le Petit Nord, istâ libertate subditi Gallici uti & gaudere non debeant. Ad majorem hujus articuli illustrationem conventum est quod insula Cap Breton dicta Gallici juris in posterum erit unâ cum facultate locum aliquem in eâdem insulâ pro lubitu muniendi. Conventum similiter erit quod jus piscaturæ, piscesque in terras siccandi, quo Galli in maribus, ut & insula de Terra Novâ olim & hætenus gavisi sunt iisdem in posterum absque omni molestiâ manebit *."

(4) *Extract of a letter from the Lords Plenipotentiaries to Mr. Secretary St. John, dated at Utrecht, the 8th of April, 1712.*

"FOR their insisting on Cape Breton, with liberty to make settlements there, they urge the necessity of their navigation to Quebec, in which ships must oftentimes need supplies. They say that island was yielded to them in the year 1632, and has ever since continued theirs; and that they do not mention it now in order to acquire a new right, but only to avoid mistakes.

"They demand that the fort of Placentia be razed, that it may not obstruct their right of fishing in those parts. We firmly adhere to our demand; and Monsieur Gaultier says, that in that case, it must be yielded to us undemolished. Their right of fishing they think will not be disputed, and declare they can never part with it."

(5) *Extract of a letter from the Lords Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht to Lord Bolingbroke, August 9th, 1712.*

"THEY insist upon the right to fish and dry, as formerly; and still urge the paper signed by Monsieur Mesnager, whereby it is reserved, but are willing the parts and places where they pretend to enjoy that liberty be determined. They seem not averse to be excluded from fishing in the Bay of Placentia, owning

* This part of the article contradicts the former.

your's I presume you will find others of the same tenour; I have likewise read over with Monsieur de Torcy, what their Plenipotentiaries have writ upon the same subject. In the whole transaction, I find a good deal of *brouillon*; and by the express which came three days since from Utrecht, it is evident they never will agree till respective orders are sent for their so doing, from hence and from Whitehall.

After long and four, but civil, discourses upon this point, Monsieur de Torcy and Desmarais, still insisted upon their undoubted and never-yielded right to Cape Breton, in which I am afraid they are too well founded, and the latter having still his eye upon their Chapeau-rouge,

owning that when that place is in our hands, it would occasion misunderstanding if their people should fish in that bay.

"On the other side, they demand that liberty, not only on the Petit Nord, but also on the coast called in their maps Chapeau-rouge, stretching from the Bay of Placentia towards that of St. Lawrence. In these seas are the isles of St. Peter, and others, to the propriety of which island they have hitherto pretended, but now seem to let that demand fall; but to Cape Breton they pretend as hitherto; and are very positive it would be the ruin of their colony of Canada, if, parting with Placentia, they have not some other place for their ships to repair to.

"We know not whether it would either content them, or be more tolerable for us, if, instead of Cape Breton, they are allowed to settle and fortify on the isle of St. Peter, but we cannot perceive we shall be able to conclude, unless that liberty be left them, one where or other, nearer than the mouth of the river of St. Lawrence."

rouge, or keeping to the preliminaries which give them the liberty of fishing where they used, which indeed, was as well along Chapeau-rouge, as the Petit Nord, I said it was in vain for them to send to Utrecht for an explanation of these matters; for without Placentia, and the advantages which ought naturally to follow its being given up, that article could never be accorded by the British nation, and that I took only a previous liberty of saying this, which the Duke of Shrewsbury would confirm within these four days; they agreed that the thing must be adjusted here and at London, and Monsieur de Torcy took notes of the several proposals I made, amongst which I confess I did not mention the offer of half Cape Breton, since the whole had been offered several months before (as your Lordship sees) and had been rejected: after all, I have received this inclosed proposal (6) from Monsieur de Torcy, and

(6) "PROPOSITION.

"Que l'île du Cap-Breton demeurera au Roi, avec la liberté d'y faire fortifier. Que la Province de l'Acadie, avec tous les droits & prérogatives dont les François ont joui, sera cédée par sa Majesté à la Reine de la Grande Bretagne avec l'île de Terre-neuve, & les îles adjacentes à cette île. Bien-entendu que les François auront & conserveront la faculté de pêcher, & de sécher leurs pêches sur les côtes de la dite île de Terre-neuve,

and send it into England, for the Queen's approbation or refusal, which I would not have ventured to have done, but that I think it gets us safely off from the too extensive clause in the Preliminaries, gives us the advantage in every part of the fishery, leaves the Queen entirely mistress of all that is worth having in Newfoundland, and does really, as Monsieur Desmarais expresses it, drive the French *au bout du monde*. Monsieur Dowdel, the person recommended to us by Gilligan, and a friend or two here, with whom I have talked concerning this matter, and who have been at Newfoundland, are all agreed, that from Cape Roi, northward, is a fishery yet unknown, and such as has not been reckoned worth trying, and that the whole fishery, except a less sort in the Petit Nord, lies southward from Bona Vista to Cape de Race, and from thence along the Bay of Placentia to Chapeau-rouge and Cape Roi, which is now in her Majesty's hands, without the French being any way to interfere therein.

Terreneuve, depuis le Cap de Bonavista, en remontant par le Nord, jusqu'à la Pointe Riche.

“Que toutes les îles situées à l'entrée de la Rivière & dans le Golphe de St. Laurent, appartiendront au Roi.”

I have

I have conferred, as well at Paris as here, with the two Ministers I named before, upon the settling and renewing our commerce. I send your Lordship inclosed a little memorial(7) which I gave them, as a sort of text to

(7) “ *Réponse au Mémoire reçu le 29me Décembre, 1712.*

“ Les nations amies sont traitées en France pour les droits d'entrée sur les marchandises, comme les sujets du Roi. Il n'en est pas de même en Angleterre, les sujets de l'état sont traités fort différemment des étrangers.

“ On propose de traiter les François en Angleterre de la même manière que les Anglois sont traités en France; ce fondement est bon, il suppose une égalité qui est nécessaire pour rétablir le commerce interrompu entre les deux nations depuis 1667. Mais la conséquence ne répond pas au principe; on veut qu'en France les Anglois jouissent du tarif de 1664, qu'on casse & annule les défenses & les arrêts qui ont établi des droits différents du tarif de 1664; & pour un avantage aussi grand & aussi certain, on tâchera d'ajuster les affaires du commerce aussitôt que le Parlement sera assemblé, de manière que les conditions seront égales de part & d'autre; si on accorde cet article, les Anglois ont tout ce qu'ils demandent, & cependant il faudra attendre les

(7) “ *Mémoire de Monsieur Prior, du 21me Décembre, 1712.*

“ (1) On propose que les Anglois soient traités à l'égard de leurs droits en France sur le pied de *amicissima gens*, & que les François seront traités en Angleterre de la même manière.

“ (2) Pour parvenir à cette fin, on cassera & annullera incessamment tout es les défenses entières & générales qui ont été faites sur les transports & entrées des marchandises de part & d'autre; & vu que les Anglois jouiront par ce moyen du tarif de 1664, comme en jouissent actuellement les Hollandois, nous tâcherons d'ajuster & de régler les affaires du commerce aussitôt que le Parlement sera assemblé, de manière que les conditions en seront égales de part & d'autre.

“ (3) Que

to our conference, and a ground for a future treaty: there was no need of my explaining the

les décisions du Parlement d'Angleterre qu'on ne doit pas présumer bien favorables au commerce des François.

“ La négociation a été commencée sur le fondement qu'on conviendrait de toutes les productions de la nature ou de l'art qui composent le commerce respectif entre la France & l'Angleterre, & que l'on conviendrait des droits qu'eiles payeroient aux entrées des deux royaumes le plus équitablement qu'il se pourroit, comme le bien du commerce des deux états le demande, ce qui suppose une discussion de détail qui est disposée par les états qui ont été faits, & qu'on pourroit communiquer, si on vouloit de la part de l'Angleterre faire la même chose.

“ On ne fait aucune difficulté de supprimer le droit de 50 par tonneau en même-tems qu'on supprimera le droit de 5 schellings en Angleterre.

“ Observez, qu'il faut stipuler que les vaisseaux Anglois ne feront point le commerce d'un port du royaume dans un autre port.

“ Par l'article 13 du premier projet du traité de commerce, donné par Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires d'Angleterre à Utrecht, on demandoit la même liberté pour la vente du tabac, mais sur les observations faites sur ce projet, les Plénipotentiaires

“ (3) Que l'imposition de 50 par tonneau, mise sur les navires Anglois qui apportent des marchandises en France, comme aussi celle de cinq schellings sterlings, mise sur les navires François en Angleterre, soient entièrement ôtées & abolies, de part & d'autre.

“ (4) Comme le tabac est en ferme en France, & que les marchands Anglois ne peuvent le vendre à d'autre qu'aux commis préposés par les fermiers du tabac, ce qui porte un grand préjudice aux Anglois, empêchant entièrement

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the condition of *amicissima gens*, as the mutual principle upon which we desired to stand ;

potentiaires d'Angleterre ayant donné un second projet, ils ont réformé l'article 11 de ce dernier, & on étoit convenu qu'il en feroit usé en France, par rapport aux Anglois pour le tabac, de la même manière qu'il se pratique pour les sujets du Roi, ce qui avoit fait croire que c'étoit une difficulté terminée.

“ Cet article est déjà accordé.

“ La même chose avoit été demandée par le premier projet, article 17 ; mais sur les observations qui y furent faites alors, il n'en a point été parlé dans le second, ainsi on avoit cru cette difficulté entièrement terminée.

“ Si on veut la discuter de nouveau, on peut revoir les remarques faites sur le premier projet, qui feroient trop longues pour être insérées dans ce mémoire.

“ Suivant le tarif de 1664, les emballages, serpillières, caisses, &c. doivent être déduits sur les drogueries & épiceries seulement,

la liberté du commerce à cet égard, on s'attend que les François trouveront les moyens convenables pour adoucir cette inégalité de commerce.

“ (5) Que les sujets de sa Majesté Britannique déjà établis, ou qui s'établiront en France, soient exempts de la loi du droit d'aubaine, & qu'il leur soit permis de disposer de leurs biens par testament, donation, ou autrement.

“ (6) Comme il est d'usage en Angleterre que les marchands François qui y amènent des marchandises, après avoir fait des déclarations à la douanne du contenu en leurs vaisseaux, en cas qu'il s'y trouve plus de balots ou tonneaux de marchandises qu'il y en a ce déclaré, ils sont reçus à faire une nouvelle déclaration de supplément, appelée communément *postentry* ; on demande que les marchands Anglois qui amènent des marchandises en France jouissent pareillement du dit privilège.

“ (7) L'on demande aussi que le droit de remise accordé pour les marchandises gâtées, emballage, tonnage, &c. appelé tare, soit aussi accordé

“ A

sur

stand; this I find has been distinctly handled, and abundantly disputed, at Utrecht. The observation that Monsieur Desmarais made upon it, is very obvious: that upon this principle we should be with France as the Hollanders are, *i.e.* as specified in the tarif of 1664; that the reason why the Hollanders had, in great measure, the benefit of this tarif, was, that they had laid no new impositions on the goods of France imported into their provinces; yet the methods of commerce, and the necessary droits which this kingdom has been forced to raise, are such, as that France must deny that tarif to them (the Hollanders) particularly as to the *quatre espèces*, whale-bone and whale-oil, woollen cloth and serges, sugars according to

“ A l'égard des droits pour les marchandises tarées & gâtées, on les règle à l'aimable, & cela se fait de concert entre les fermiers du Roi & les négocians, il n'y a jamais eu de règlement à cet égard. sur un pied égal de part & d'autre.

“ Article général & ordinaire dans les traités de commerce.”

“ (8) Et généralement que les sujets de la Grande Bretagne, & ceux de France, jouiront d'une liberté réciproque au fait du commerce, & qu'on tâche autant qu'on peut d'en ouvrir & faciliter toutes les meilleures voies de part & d'autre.”

their several refinements, and all sorts of salt-fish in barrel; upon all which heads Monsieur Desmarais asserts that it would be impossible that France should trade with Holland, except these commodities, and the manner of importing them, were regulated by the tarif of 1699, or some other equivalent proportion. Upon the article of salt-fish, I was very glad to hear Monsieur Desmarais say, that whoever imports it into this kingdom must find it considerably advantageous: my thought was, that this ought to be a fair argument to us to mind and improve our fishery upon the coasts of Scotland, for it is this sort of fish which the Dutch import chiefly hither, and which the French mean to bring to the above-mentioned tarif.

Monsieur Desmarais explains himself very much upon the head of an *entière prohibition* being very prejudicial to both nations, but more so to England, he says, than to France: and that the high duties on both sides ought to be taken off, and brought to a just medium, which he thinks impossible to be done but by Commissioners, to be named to that purpose; for that this must cost a great deal of time, for the French can only take off
their

their duties as we shall take off ours, and the alteration of their edicts must go *pari passu* with that of our acts of Parliament.

To what I objected, that the King, being absolute master of his edicts, might in the mean time take away the entire prohibition of several commodities, particularly those specified in the edict of September 6, 1701; he answered, likewise, that we had several entire prohibitions; for instance, their silks were as absolutely forbid on our side, as our cloth on theirs; and repeated, that the taking off the entire prohibitions, as the alleviating the high duties, must go gradually and equally on both sides, or always be made on one side upon condition that the other perform his part, and be intended to take place accordingly at such time; for that if the prohibition on the French side were (as I seemed to think reasonable) immediately taken off, the English would run a glut of their goods into France, sufficient to serve the nation for two or three years: “while,” says he, “we, the French, shall remain *les bras croisés*; the English knowing the certain duties payable in France, and the French expecting how, or in what time, the duties upon their goods

shall be taken off in England." Upon the whole, he has given this answer to the proposals I gave him, as what might serve for a ground-work to a treaty of commerce; it was yesterday read in Council, and I receive it this morning from Monsieur de Torcy, together with a scheme (8) of the chief commodities

(8) "*Etat des denrées & productions du royaume.*

" Amandes.	Peaux de chèvres en croûte.
Anchoix.	Pierres à carreaux.
Avelines.	Meules-à-moulins.
Bois de noyer en madriers.	Plâtre.
Bois de noyer en planches, ou tables.	Plumes pour lit.
Brai.	Poires.
Câpres grosses.	Pommes de reinette & autres.
Câpres fines.	Poudre-à-poudrer.
Chataignes.	Prunes de Tour
Chardon.	Prunes de Brugnoles.
Eau de la Reine d'Hongrie.	Prunes de Bourdeaux.
Eau-de-vie.	Raisins secs.
Figues.	Redon.
Galipots.	Résine.
Huile d'olive.	Saffran.
Jaye brun.	Savon, blanc & marbré.
Liège.	Sel.
Meules-à-moulins.	Vaudes.
Miel.	Vin rouge.
Olives.	Vin blanc.
Pastel.	Vinaigre.

" *Etat des manufactures de France.*

- " Bas drapes de laine fine pour femme, de toutes couleurs.
- Ditto, communs.
- Bas drapes de laine fine pour homme, de toutes couleurs.
- Ditto, communs.
- Bougrans.
- Boutons d'or & d'argent, fin trait; de la grande sorte.
- Ditto, de la petite sorte.

Boutons

modities which France sends to England,
which he desires may be returned, with the
specific

Boutons d'or & d'argent, fin filé sur soie, assortis, par moitié de la grande & petite forte.

Boutons d'argent fin, ou d'argent doré, massif & plaqué sur moule de bois.

Boutons de la petite forte.

Brocards, à fond d'or & d'argent fin.

Brocards, à fond de damas, de taffetas, ou de satin, rehaussés d'ornemens & de fleurs d'argent fin.

Brocards, à fond d'or & d'argent fin, lis & glacés, sans aucunes fleurs ni ornemens de soie de couleur.

Brocards forts, de pure soie, à fond de satin, de damas, ou de taffetas, brochés de fleurs de couleur, sans or ni argent.

Brocards moyens, de pure soie, à fond de satin, de damas, ou de taffetas, à fleurs de différentes couleurs.

Cadis larges ou étroits.

Cartes à jouer.

Chapeaux de castor.

Chapeaux de laine routes de fortes.

Dentelles blanches assorties, façon du Puy, d'Auvergne, & de Normandie, & autres provinces du royaume. Droguets rasés, estaminés, ras de maroc, de Barriere, de castor, mon cayards & Dauphin, de pure laine ou mêlés de soie.

Droguets & pluches d'or & d'argent fin, fil de chanvre ou de lin, de toutes couleurs.

Fil trait d'or fin.

Ditto d'argent fin.

Galons, franges, & dentelles d'or faux, filé sur soie.

Ditto d'argent faux.

Gazes simples, unies ou rayées.

Ditto à fleurs, brochées de soie ou de laine.

Gazes damassées.

Jais ou jayer travaillé en ouvrages.

Glaces de France, façon de Venise.

“ *Menues Merceries*, savoir :

“ Bridons, boucles, & boutons de cuivre ou de métal, unis ou ouvragés, dorés ou non dorés ; boutons de soie, de soie & de poil, & de pur poil ; étrilles ; étrières ; gands de peau, de toutes sortes, pour homme ou pour femme, unis ou garnis, de cuir ou de taffetas ; épingles, aiguilles, étuis de poche ; boîtes à mouches, & tabatières, d'ivoire, d'écaille, de corne, de bois, unies,

specific duties payable in England upon every head, and what time may probably be asked for the alleviating any part of them; and he desires we should send a like scheme of English goods which we import chiefly into France, and promises to give us thereupon a reciprocal account; the King being very willing to open a trade as soon and as fairly

gravées, sculptées, ou garnies d'or ou d'argent; épées montées, avec leurs gardes & poignées de quelque métal qu'elles soient; lunettes de toutes sortes; fouets; ouvrages de cuivre gravés ou en relief, dorés ou non dorés: peignes d'écaille, d'ivoire, de cornes, ou de bois; ouvrages d'acier, poli ou doré; & toutes sortes d'autres menus ouvrages de poche.

Mouère d'or & d'argent.

Mouère de soie.

Or & argent fin, filé sur soie de toutes qualités, l'un dans l'autre.

Papiers, perruques, blondes, ditto châtaines & noires penchenat.

Clincaillerie fine, comme couteaux, ciseaux, razors, instrumens de chirurgie & d'horlogerie, & autres ouvrages de coutellerie.

Rubans de soie à fleurs ou rayures d'or & d'argent depuis la plus petite jusques à quatre pouces de largeur.

Rubans tissés d'or & d'argent fin, d'un pouce jusques à quatre de largeur.

Serge de Nîmes & d'Uzès.

Taffetas unis, rayés, nuancés, changeans de toutes couleurs.

Tapissierie, Bergame ou droguets de Rouen, de fil, de laine, ou de soie.

Toiles blanches, fines, & fortes, de Normandie & de Laval.

Toiles communes de Normandie, toiles de fil & coton à carreaux, toiles royales à faire des voiles.

Toiles blanches appellées quintins, ou bretagnes étroites.

Toiles blanches de Morlaix, appellées écrues étroites.

Toiles blanches de Morlaix, appellées écrues larges.

Toiles blanches ouvrées à serviettes; toiles légères de cholet, toiles écrues de chanvre de $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, $\frac{1}{2}$, d'une aune de large, les unes dans les autres; toile-batiste, Verres à vitre, & tous autres ouvrages de verrerie, les glaces façon de Vénise exceptées."

as possible with his old friends: but he concludes, that the confusion and misunderstanding of twenty years will not be redressed without a good deal of time and labour.

The usual articles, therefore, of a treaty of commerce, that of the *droit d'aubaine*, that of tare, and what your Lordship fees is pretty near adjusted, may be agreed and signed at Utrecht with the treaty of peace, but in a distinct instrument, and as a treaty of commerce; and in it the specialties as to the manner of diminishing the *droits*, and regulating the tarif, must be provided for by one general clause.

I have waited on Monsieur Pontchartrain; and not perceiving that the list of ships taken, as we alleged, contrary to the terms the cessation, or the usual maritime laws, of which I formerly left with him, has been regarded, I left another list with him, to which he says I shall have an answer in few days. John Wynne, the poor man so often taken and retaken, with his ship, are set at liberty; and our subjects, of which I have a long list, which I think comes from Colonel Nicholson, that are, we say, taken against their will, and confined at Canada, will have
leave

leave to return to Boston, or wherever we think proper, provided they are not *habitués* in Canada, and had rather stay there than otherwise; of this I shall send you more by my next.

Paris, 29th December, 1712.

I TOLD your Lordship I should hear more from the Elector of Bavaria; I did so, by Monsieur de Torcy, last night. Count Monostrole repeats his master's acknowledgments to her Majesty, and his desire that she will set him as free as her present circumstances of affairs may permit; and in a visit this morning to Monsieur Voisin*, he let fall, as seeming by chance, that it was not thought the Dutch would ever pretend to garrison Luxemburgh.

Monostrole complains, and the Ministers here second the complaints, that Bonne, the very and only residence of the Elector of Cologne is to be garrisoned by Imperial troops, and Liege and Huy by Dutch. Monostrole has represented from his master to the Most Christian King, that a formal treaty was made, in 1704, between the Electress and

* Secretary at War.

the late Emperor Joseph *, not one word of which has been complied with, nor any recompence made him upon what was therein stipulated.

That the House of Austria, not to count thirteen millions of florins which they formerly owed him, have during this war seized all his magazines, cannon, goods, plate, jewels, and pictures; that Rollembourg, the adjacent countries, and other large tracts of land, which are now comprehended in the Upper Palatinate, have been bought by the House of Bavaria, *à beaux deniers contans*, and, by consequence, should be reserved to him.

In these points, his Most Christian Majesty would desire the Queen to favour this Prince; and as he has given Monsieur de Torcy order to mention them to me, the Duc d'Aumont will likewise have order to speak of them in England.

Another point, upon which this Court is very solicitous, is, that the Chevalier remaining in any town of France obstructs the signing the peace; yet he cannot go to Lorrain

* By this treaty, she was to surrender all the towns in her possession to the Emperor, to reside at Munich, with a guard of 400 men, and to have a pension out of the electorate, for the support of her court and family.

till the Emperor's passport will secure him there. Your Lordship, by the perusal of the papers (9, 10, 11) will see the state of that case ;

(9) *Copie de la Lettre de Monseigneur le Duc de Lorraine,*
Décembre 16me, 1712.

“ Je suis bien fâché, Monsieur, que votre indisposition m'empêche de vous voir, mais j'espère qu'en peu vous vous porterez bien, ce que je souhaite beaucoup. Sautiez m'a hier rendu compte de ce que vous lui avez dit touchant l'affaire dont je l'avois chargé, & pour que vous puissiez rendre encore un meilleur compte, je vous envoie ci-joint un petit mémoire, dont la mauvaise diction vous fera assez connoître que c'est mon style ; j'espère que le Roi trouvera que j'ai eu raison de faire ce que j'ai fait, à moins que de m'engager dans une mauvaise affaire : je vous prie à propos de cela, de vous souvenir que vous m'avez dit, Monsieur, que sa Majesté vouloit que cette affaire se fassé par le consentement des alliés pour une plus grand sûreté, que la démarche que j'ai faite à la cour de Vienne n'a été qu'*officium boni viri*, & que pour cela, il ne seroit pas juste que j'entrasse en aucune discussion ; je me flatte que le Roi entrera dans mes raisons, & fera convaincu que mon unique application est de plaire à sa Majesté, & lui faire connoître mon attachement respectueux : je serois malheureux, Monsieur, si je me trompois, & si je déplairois dans une occasion où je n'ai pu prendre d'autre parti ; soyez au reste persuadé qu'on ne peut être plus véritablement que Je suis, &c.

(10) ‘ Monsieur d'Audifret se souviendra que lorsqu'il est venu ici de la part du Roi son maître, pour me témoigner que sa Majesté souhaitoit que j'employasse mes bons offices auprès des alliés pour procurer au Chevalier de St. George les sûretés nécessaires dans mes états, contre les courtes des troupes de ces mêmes alliés, je lui dis dès ce tems-là que je croyois que par mes avis la Reine de la Grande Bretagne ayant déjà accordé son sauf-conduit au dit Chevalier, il n'y avoit plus à en demander qu'à l'Empereur & aux Hollandois, & je lui ajoutai que je croyois qu'il convenoit de commencer par demander ce sauf-conduite de sa Majesté Impériale parce que j'étois persuadé que s'accordant les Etats-Généraux feroient moins de difficultés, & que proposant en droiture en Hollande, une affaire de cette importance, qui devoit passer par toutes les résolutions de toutes les provinces, j'appréhendois que cela ne trainât en longueur, & que peut-être la réussite seroit plus difficile. Monsieur d'Audifret me parût

case ; and I have only to add, upon this subject, that the Court of France expresses an impossibility

parût approuver mon dessein, & je ne tardai pas un moment à en écrire à mon Envoyé à Vienne, dont l'indisposition a fait que je n'ai pas eu plutôt la réponse.

‘ L'Empereur, sur ma demande, m'a fait envoyer une copie du sauf-conduit qu'il projetoit de donner, & y a joint une lettre, dont je joindrai ci-après la translation : Monsieur d'Audifret trouvera dans l'une & dans l'autre de ces deux pièces des endroits barrés, auxquels je le prie de faire attention, lorsqu'il en rendra compte à la cour.

(11) *Translation de la lettre de l'Empereur à son Altesse Royale.*

‘ Votre résident, Valentini, m'a requis très humblement de votre part, pour donner les ordres nécessaires afin que le nommé Chevalier de St. George, qui doit se transporter dans vos états, y puisse demeurer en sûreté de mes troupes & de celles des alliés, qui y peuvent croiser facilement ; & quoique j'aime fort de vous témoigner en toutes occasions ma promptitude sur vos demandes, & que je conçois très-bien les raisons pour lesquelles vous n'avez pu refuser les insinuations qui vous ont été faites à cet égard, & qu'outre cela, je plains moi-même le dit Chevalier dans sa situation infortunée ; il est néanmoins par les circonstances dignes de réflexion, & qu'on peut s'imaginer aisément, très difficile d'accorder pour lui pleinement le sauf-conduit qu'on a demandé ; je ne puis donc le donner que de la manière que vous avez grand soin qu'il s'en serve dans la droiture, & sans préjudice à la cause commune, faute de quoi vous en seriez réponsable à moi, à l'Empire, & au reste des alliés.

“ * PAR la lecture tant du projet du sauf-conduit que de la lettre, j'espère que par le compte que Monsieur Daudifret voudra bien rendre, le Roi sera persuadé des soins que j'ai pris de faire réussir sur le champ ce que sa Majesté a désiré de moi, & je me flatte que par le compte qu'il aura déjà rendu à sa Majesté, elle aura vu l'envie que j'ai de lui plaire, non-seulement en cette occasion, mais encore en toutes autres qui se sont présentées, & se présenteront à l'avenir. Mais les deux endroits barrés tant dans le sauf-conduit que dans la lettre de l'Empereur, m'ont obligé, & je n'y ai pas perdu un moment de tems à remonter à sa Majesté Impériale, que moi & mes états étant neutres, je ne pouvois être chargé de pa-

* The Duke of Lorrain here resumes his letter.

reilles

impossibility on their side to do more than they have done, and hopes we should have interest enough with the Emperor to obtain such passports from him as may secure as well the person who is to go into Lorain, as the Duke of Lorain, who is to receive him.

I have not heard from Utrecht since my arrival in France, but I presume I shall hear in few days, Sunday next being the last day allowed for their determination ; and if you approve the proposal relating to Newfound-

reilles conditions, que j'attribuois cela à des termes de Chancellerie, que j'espérois que l'Empereur voudra bien m'accorder cette grâce sans ces restrictions, lesquelles je ne pouvois recevoir en façon quelconque. Je compte qu'en huit ou dix jours au plus tard, j'aurai une réponse, à-moins que la rechute d'indisposition de mon envoyé ne la retarde, & dès que j'aurai réponse, je ne manquerai pas d'en informer sur le champ Monsieur Daudifret.

“ J'espère que le Roi trouvera que j'ai pris le bon parti dans cette occasion, & qu'étant comme j'ai dit ci-dessus en neutralité, je ne pouvois en aucun façon du monde entrer dans de pareils engagements ; je me flatte même qu'en ce rencontre comme en tous ceux qui se présenteront, sa Majesté verra que mon unique application sera toujours de lui donner des marques de mon attachement, & de l'envie très sincère que j'ai de lui plaire en tout ce qui dépendra de moi.

“ Si pendant cet intervalle on croyoit à propos que je fisse quelque démarche au côté de la Hollande, je le ferai avec bien de plaisir, & si Monsieur Daudifret veut attendre là-dessus des ordres de la cour, je ne ferai aucun mouvement entre ci & ce tems-là, mais s'il croit que je puisse en attendant faire quelque démarche, il n'aura qu'à me le mander & je ferai toujours tout prêt à faire tout ce qu'il me conseillera sur ce sujet.”

land, and judge the scheme of commerce such as may form a general article, I think we are ready, let what will happen. I am more pleased with the proposal as to Newfoundland, because I see Monsieur Pontchartrain and some others heartily disquieted at it. Monsieur de Torcy's letters from Utrecht say, that of the provinces, Frieze, Utrecht, and Gelder, were for the peace; and, of Holland, the towns which stood chiefly out were Delft, Rotterdam, and Leyden.

The Duke of Argyle is here, and desires a yacht may immediately be ordered to Calais, for his passage: he will tell your Lordship that the affair of Catalonia remains in *statu quo*: Monsieur de Torcy has received advice, that the Duke of Berwick is within a day's march of Staremburg, that he has an army of fifty squadrons and forty battalions, much superior to that of the enemy. Monsieur Voisin, tells me, the French are twenty-three thousand effective men, and he reckons the Germans not above thirteen thousand; the Duke of Argyle computes the Germans to be nearer twenty thousand.

For home news, I saw the Dauphin * yef-

* Afterwards Louis XV.

terday,

fterday, he was brought to the King at table; the child looks very well, a little pale; he is handsome, and seems to have a good deal of spirit. I expect the Duke of Shrewsbury here, on Saturday or Sunday. We have taken a rambling apartment for him, in l'Hôtel Soifons, which was the best however that we could find in all Paris.

I have writ rather a journal than a letter, the diversity of the subjects which it contains must plead my excuse, in every part of it. I have done my best for the Queen's service, and I leave it to your great friendship to me to give it the most candid interpretation.

La Vigne brings instructions to the Duke d'Aumont upon many of the heads in my letter, and by him again, in case you send no messenger of her Majesty's immediately, I may have your answer. I am, with great truth, your Lordship's, &c.

M. PRIOR.

I humbly refer my Lord Dartmouth, to what I have writ to your Lordship.

*From Mr. Prior *.*

MY LORD,

January 5th, N.S. 1712-13.

MATT has nothing to say to Henry, but that he has solicited Calandrini's affair with Monsieur Desmarais, in a manner that he hopes may be effectual, though not in proportion, as to the time, with what Monsieur Calandrini may have promised himself; in this case, I beg of the Minister, whilst I preach patience to a suffering family.

I expect to hear from you in answer to my long letter, and am immediately upon sealing this to go to Versailles, in order to hear what Monsieur de Torcy has received from Utrecht, in relation to the grand affair. I hear and have heard nothing from thence; God knows my heart. I expect the Duke of Shrewsbury every day, but have no certain news of his arrival on this side.

The Duke of Argyle has been kindly received here, his Grace will tell you the rest.

I am, &c.

MATT.

The Croissys, Ferioles, &c. are always

* Received by Colonel Campbell.

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S

your's;

your's ; I send you these truffles from the latter, or the Duke of Argyle eats them by the way, no matter.

I have not a word of our ship from Rouen, nor of any thing there incontained ; pray write to me *pro more solito*.

Your's.

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Paris, 8th January, N.S. 1713.

I HAD scarce closed the letter which I did myself the honour to write to your Lordship two days since by Mr. Campbell, and wherein I told you that Monsieur de Torcy had summoned me to Versailles, in order to inform me of what he had received from his master's Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht ; when I likewise received the inclosed (1, 2, 3, 4) from Lords Privy Seal and

(1) " *Points in dispute upon the project of a Treaty of Peace between Great Britain and France.*

" We think that the country having been forcibly taken in time of peace, no right, either public or private, has been acquired.

" The French demanded that at the restoring of Hudson's Bay, the French there have liberty and a time allowed to sell their immoveables.

" We

" The

and Strafford, containing the points which yet lie undecided between her Majesty and this

" We demand that the French shall not fish within thirty leagues of the south-east side, nor within ten leagues of the north-west side of Nova Scotia.

" We desire to determine the time in the Spring, when the French may come to fish upon the coast of Newfoundland, and that it be not sooner than April. As also, that they remain not there after the autumnal equinox.

" We think this necessary, to clear at all times to come our right of possession.

" We offer to settle the French fishing, and the propriety of Cape Breton, and other small islands, according to any of the three alternatives which Mr. Prior is informed of.

" Our orders are express as to the possession of all, or at least, of half of Cape Breton, and as to the Isle Sable, as also that of St. Peter, and others adjacent to Newfoundland. We are not empowered to admit of any temperaments, other than what is contained in the above-mentioned alternatives."

" The French ministers only plead their orders.

" They consent to be excluded fishing on those coasts in general terms, but think it needless to fix any limits on the south-east side, and unreasonable as to the north-west.

" They think no term of time ought to be prescribed in either case.

" They are of opinion, it will expose their shipping to great dangers and inconveniences, and be the occasion of misunderstandings.

" They are lately come to offer that their fishing shall be from the Bay of Fortune northward, about to Cape Bonavista, and to be sole possessors of Cape Breton, St. Paul, and the Isles in the Gulph of St. Lawrence.

" They also demand the Isle Sable, and that of St. Peter, &c.

" They seemed very desirous to conclude, and in a manner owned, they could go something farther, if we would admit of such temperaments, as the case required."

this Court; I have conferred upon them all in general with Monsieur de Torcy, and with
Messieurs

(2) *Differences in the treaty of commerce.*

“ We desire that the subjects of either party may freely repair to the kingdoms and countries of the other. We cannot aver, that our general expression would give any right to those that are under a legal incapacity, but think we have reason to object against theirs as novelty, and without precedent, in any treaty of commerce.

“ We are averse to this, because it would be a formal decision against the refugees; and rather than do so, should incline to accept of their way of expression (if it were in our power) because it settles this matter in favour, at least, of the children of the French refugees, born in England, which would otherwise remain undetermined.”

“ They propose to restrain it to the native subjects; but consent to add, for explication, that all British subjects, not born in the dominions of France, may go into France; and all French subjects, not born in the dominions of Great Britain, may go into Great Britain: they think this precaution is needful, as well in respect of the French refugees, as of such British natives now in France as stand proscribed by the laws.

“ They offer to accept our words, and to make an article apart concerning such subjects on both sides as are proscribed.”

(3) *The principal difference in the treaty of commerce.*

“ We desire that several articles that have been excluded out of the first plan of the treaty, and referred to commissioners, may be now settled, and replaced in the treaty.

“ We own such an agreement, but are nevertheless desirous to go the other way.

“ We

“ They allege an agreement made between the two Crowns in May last, whereby any matters of long discussion be left to Commissioners.

“ They object, that it will be impossible in our way to conclude the treaty in the time that

Messieurs Desmarais and Pontchartrain upon those which more immediately regard their respective

that will be requisite, because it will necessarily require a very nice and tedious examination of tariffs, prohibitions, and rules of trade, on both sides.

“ In the mean time, they offer, that we, concluding the treaty their way, shall immediately participate in all the benefits of trade in France that shall be granted to the Dutch; and that they, on the other side, will wait for redress to the grievances their trade is under in Britain.

“ We apprehend Commissioners will scarce ever agree.

“ They assure us there will be no affectation of delay on their side; the rather, because the French trade in Britain will need relief, more than the British in France.

“ Our orders oblige us to insist, that when by Act of Parliament, the duties upon the growth and manufactures of France, shall be reduced to the same proportionate rates that are paid for the like goods by other nations, and all acts prohibiting the importation of any French goods that have been made since the year 1664, shall be repealed, we shall then enjoy in France the full effect of the Tariff of 1664.

“ They say immediately upon the ratification of the treaty of commerce (if we make one) we are to enjoy all the benefits of that tariff, except only four species.

“ We understand it to be so, but think it needful our woollen manufacture, fish, sugars, and tobacco, should be eased of the present burdens upon them in France.”

“ They say their case is the same in respect of many of their manufactures, and that these difficulties cannot be removed, but by commissioners.”

respective provinces: and upon the whole send you the result of such my conferences, which I hope you will find to be such as may facilitate the orders which our Ambassadors expect from your Lordship.

As to what relates in Monsieur de Torcy's *mémoire* (5) to the fourth article, concerning

(4) *Article proposed about the tariff of 1664, received from Monsieur de Torcy, the 7th of Jan. 1713.*

“ Les articles qui regardent la liberté que les sujets de part & d'autre auront & doivent avoir de venir traffiquer, &c. seront exprimés en termes généraux; & si dans le détail il se trouve quelque exception à faire, il en sera convenu sans perte de tems, soit avec Monsieur le Duc de Shrewsbury, soit avec Monsieur Prior, soit à Utrecht entre Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de France & de la Grande Bretagne.

“ Lorsque par acte du Parlement de la Grande Bretagne, les droits sur les denrées du crû manufactures & marchandises de France, seront réduits à la même proportion de ceux qui doivent se lever en France sur les denrées du crû manufactures & marchandises de la Grande Bretagne, suivant le tarif de l'année 1664, les sujets de la Grande Bretagne jouiront alors en France du tarif de la dite année 1664.”

(5) *Reçu de Monsieur de Torcy, 7me Janvier, 1712-13.*

“ *Mémoire pour Monsieur Prior.*

“ PAR l'article 4 du projet de traité de paix à faire avec la Grande Bretagne, envoyé à Utrecht au mois d'Août dernier, il est dit: *Ille qui Regis Magnæ Britanniae titulum assumpsit*, &c.

“ Aujourd'hui Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Grande Bretagne veulent changer cette expression dont ils étoient convenus, & substituer en sa place les termes suivans: *Qui Regis Magnæ Britanniae nomen usurpavit*, ou bien, *sibi arrogavit*. Termes qui ne donnent pas plus de force à l'engagement que le Roi prend par cet article à l'égard de la succession réglée par les actes du Parlement.

“ Sur l'article 8, on a toujours fait observer qu'il étoit nécessaire de distinguer deux différentes sortes d'écluses à Dunkerque; les

ing the words, *titulum assumpsit*, and *nomen usurpavit*, or *sibi arrogavit*, since there never was

les unes servant à nettoyer le Port, les autres à retenir les eaux pour empêcher l'inondation du pays.

“ Il n'y a point de difficulté à démolir les premières, commé faisant part des fortifications : quant aux secondes, leur destruction ne serviroit qu'à ruiner le pays des environs, sans produire aucun avantage à l'Angleterre ; Monsieur le Vicomte de Bolingbroke s'est éclairci par lui-même de cette vérité, lorsqu'il a passé par Dunkerque en retournant à Londres. On ne doute donc pas que sur le compte qu'il en aura rendu à la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, toute difficulté sur cet article ne soit déjà levée.

“ Il est porté par l'article 9 du projet, que le Roi fera remettre à la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, la Baie d'Hudson, &c. de la manière que sa Majesté & les François la possèdent présentement.

“ Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Grande Bretagne prétendent qu'il soit exprimé, que non-seulement la France rendra *ce qui a été pris sur les Anglois*, mais encore, *tout ce que l'Angleterre à jamais possédé de ce côté-là*. Cette clause nouvelle est différente du projet, seroit une source de difficultés continuelles ; mais pour les éviter, le Roi a renvoyé à ses Plénipotentiaires la même carte de l'Amérique Septentrionale qui leur avoit été communiquée par les Plénipotentiaires de la Grande Bretagne. Sa Majesté a fait tracer sur cette carte une ligne qui marque les limites, de manière qu'elle a lieu de croire qu'on pourra facilement convenir sur ce point de part & d'autre.

“ Si toutefois il y avoit encore quelque difficulté que Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires ne pussent aplanir, la décision en seroit remise aux Commissaires qui seront nommés pour régler les limites de l'Amérique. Il est porté par le même article, qu'il sera permis aux sujets du Roi de sortir des terres en des lieux que sa Majesté cède à la Couronne de la Grande Bretagne, d'emporter avec eux leurs biens & meubles, & d'aller, soit par terre soit par mer, où bon leur semblera. Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la France leur ont aussi réservé la faculté de vendre leurs biens immeubles dans l'espace de trois ans.

“ Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Grande Bretagne contestent le terme de trois ans, & le veulent borner à un an. Ils prétendent de plus, faire une distinction des lieux cédés, & des lieux qu'ils appellent restitués. Ils consentent de laisser au François établis dans les lieux cédés, la faculté de vendre leurs biens immeubles dans l'espace d'un an. Mais ils prétendent

was any thing in that grammatical controversy but its having been disputed, I take it for granted the matter is long since adjusted, or may very easily be so; our Ambassadors not taking notice of it in the inclosed *points*

qu'ils ne doivent pas jouir de cette même liberté dans les lieux restitués. Ils comprennent sous le nom de lieux cédés, l'Acadie & l'Isle de Saint Christophe: sous le nom de lieux restitués, la Baie & le Détroit d'Hudson, & l'Isle de Terre-neuve. Pour lever cette difficulté, on peut fixer le terme à deux ans ou dix-huit mois, & laisser aux François établis, soit dans les lieux cédés soit dans les lieux restitués, une égale liberté de vendre leurs biens immeubles dans cette espace de tems.

“ Sur l'article 10, Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de France demandent que les Anglois obtenant le droit de porter leurs plaintes par devant les Commissaires des dommages soufferts à la Baie d'Hudson, les sujets du Roi aient aussi le même droit à l'égard de l'affaire de Nièves & de celle de Gambie.

“ Cette réciprocité, dont Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Grande Bretagne n'ont pas encore voulu convenir, paroît juste: les Anglois auront aussi la liberté de représenter les pertes qu'ils ont faites l'année dernière à Monfaret & d'en solliciter le dédommagement qui leur sera accordé.

“ Il étoit porté par l'article 11 du Projet, que les François ne pourroient pêcher à l'avenir sur les côtes de l'Acadie. Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Grande Bretagne veulent aujourd'hui étendre cette interdiction de la pêche. Ils prétendent que les François ne la pourront exercer à trente lieues au sud-est de cette Province, & à dix lieues au nord-ouest. Si cette prétention avoit lieu, les François ne pourroient pêcher dans le Golfe même de St. Laurent. La proposition communiquée à Monsieur Prior aplainra cette difficulté, puisqu'il est marqué que l'Acadie est cédée avec tous les droits & prérogatives dont les François ont joui. Il est inutile d'entrer dans une discussion plus particulière.

“ Sur l'article 12, Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Grande Bretagne ont proposé de borner le tems de la pêche des François depuis les premiers jours d'Avril jusqu'au 20me Septembre. Mais comme cette restriction nouvelle est impracticable, contraire à l'usage ordinaire & à la bonne intelligence qu'on veut établir entre les deux nations, on est persuadé que la Reine de la Grande Bretagne la désapprouvera.”

in dispute, however, I was satisfied that Monsieur de Torcy should send his remarks upon it, since his so doing is a kind of *ouverte acte*, by which the French do once more previously acknowledge what they are to stipulate with us in that behalf.

The point concerning the sluices about Dunkirk, will admit of no difficulty, it having depended upon the essential difference between demolishing the fortifications, and drowning the country, and upon the report which Mr. Hill, according to our Ambassadors, and which your Lordship, according to Monsieur de Torcy, have made on this subject.

As to the limits of Hudson's Bay, what the Ministry here seem to apprehend, at least in virtue of the general expression, *tout ce que l'Angleterre a jamais possédé de ce côté-là*, which they assert to be wholly new, and which I think is really so, since our Plenipotentiaries make no mention of it, may give us occasion to encroach at any time upon their dominions in Canada, I have answered, that since, according to the *carte* which came from our Plenipotentiaries, marked with the extent of what was thought
our

our dominion, and returned by the French with what they judged the extent of theirs, there was no very great difference, and that the parties who determine that difference must be guided by the same *carte*; I thought that article would admit no dispute, in case it be either determined immediately by the Plenipotentiaries, or referred to Commissioners. I take leave to add to your Lordship, that these limitations are no otherwise advantageous or prejudicial to Great Britain, than as we are better or worse with the native Indians, and that the whole is a matter rather of industry than dominion.

If there be any real difference between *restitution* and *cession*, *quæritur*; yet since in either case, the right of the inhabitant as to transferring his goods and effects, or disposing of his person and family, is always provided for in treaty, I leave it to your Lordship's better judgment, if a fixed time in either case, suppose eighteen months or two years, does not put the subject, who is to have the benefit which *restitution* or *cession* grants him, upon an equaler foot, and consequently less to be contested, than if the terms of time were different? Your Lordship

ship sees the limitation comes up pretty near to what our Plenipotentiaries insist upon, *i. e.* a year, allowing some months for the people in those remote parts to be informed of the agreement made here. This article therefore, if agreed, will therefore comprehend those of Hudson's Bay, Newfoundland, Acadie, and St. Christopher's.

Our Plenipotentiaries mention nothing relating to the 10th article, by which in Monsieur de Torcy's *mémoire*, your Lordship sees those of France demand that the subjects of the Crown may exhibit their complaints to Commissioners hereafter to be named, in relation to their losses at Nieuves and Gambie, I mean what we owe them as to Nieuves, in like manner as the subjects of her Majesty are to exhibit their complaints as to Hudson's Bay; your Lordship will see that I have got a like clause added in favour of her Majesty's subjects, for the losses they sustained last year at Montserrat, which I hope may indemnify the particular sufferers in that case, and prevent the ill effects which, as your Lordship writ me word some months since, might be apprehended from the murmurs raised upon that subject.

The

The demand which our Plenipotentiaries make, that the French shall not fish within thirty leagues of the south-east of Acadie, *i. e.* upon the long bank which runs from west to east before that country, was founded upon this assertion, that while Acadie was in the French hands, we were obliged to the like restriction, and consequently the words in the proposal lately sent, “ *que la province de l'Acadie, avec tous les droits & prérogatives dont les François ont joui, sera cédé par sa Majesté à la Reine de la Grande Bretagne,*” admits our claim, and finishes the dispute, as Monsieur de Torcy observes in the inclosed memorial; but as to their being forbid to fish within ten leagues of the north-west of Acadie, Messieurs Torcy and Desmarais, think the proposition wholly new; alledge it deprives them of the benefit of fishing on the coast of Cape Breton, cannot but cause, what in every other part of our demands we seem to avoid, a future and frequent dispute between our fishers of each nation.

The restraining their fishery to an exact time, *i. e.* between the 1st of April till the 20th of September, they likewise except against, as new, and hope it will not be insisted

insisted on. Monsieur de Torcy civilly taking notice that we were not so unkind as to offer such a restriction to the Hollanders, or any other nation, upon any occasion, or at any time; and Monsieur Desmarais, with more warmth, proving it impracticable, that their fishers setting out from hence, considering the hazards of wind, and uncertainties of their voyage, must either be on the coasts before the day prescribed, and in this case must stay inactive, at the loss both of their time and their provisions, or, coming too late, would not be able to cure, and return their fish within a convenient season; this, they said, was not of a piece with the *gens amicissima*, and would be rather an unkind mark of distinction set upon them, than a real advantage to us.

The isle of St. Peter, which our Plenipotentiaries say the French demand, your Lordship will see, is yielded to us, in those words of the proposal lately sent, *avec la Terre neuve, & les îles adjacentes à cette île*. The reason why, as your Lordship remembers, Monsieur Mesnager last year insisted so much upon this island of St. Peter, and why the French would have confined our possessions

possessions of the isles round Newfoundland to a certain distance, out of which St. Peter's would yet be exempted, is, that though they had yielded, as they have done by the proposal, that part of the coasts to us, as to drying, &c. they still would have had the convenience of drying upon this little isle: but it is now evidently given to us, as belonging to Newfoundland; and they take the isle of St. Paul to be as evidently yielded to them, as belonging to Cape Breton: and so the whole matter rests plain and determined, supposing always that the proposal be agreed to.

Give me leave, my Lord, to remark, upon the head of Newfoundland, that the last offer made by the French Plenipotentiaries to ours, was, that they, the French, should fish from the Bay of Fortune round by the north of Bonavista; this was the same which the Ministers here offered to me; and from the Bay of Fortune they receded to Cap Roi: but in the proposal sent by me, their liberty begins only from Point Rich; that there is a great tract between the Bay and the Cape and the Point above mentioned, and both these tracts capable of an excellent fishery,
2 which,

which, as I have heard, declines in its value as the island from Point Rich grows straighter towards the north-east.

The difference in the treaty of commerce relating to the liberty of the English subject trading, is, your Lordship sees by the inclosed *mémoire*, agreed in the manner as our Plenipotentiaries desire. As is likewise the stipulation desired, that the tarif of 1664 shall be the base upon which our mutual commerce shall be founded, and the rule to which our acts of Parliament and the French edicts shall be reduced. I add to your Lordship, this little book of their edicts; not knowing if it is not rare in England. I came only to Paris to dispatch this courier, and go again to Versailles to-morrow, to see what these people have farther to say to me before the King goes to Marly, which will be on Wednesday, after which the ten days of his staying there makes a sort of vacance from all business.

I expect his Grace of Shrewsbury here every day, having advice that [on the third he was at Margate, and expected the next day at Calais. I am, with great respect,
your Lordship's, &c.

M. PRIOR.

De

De Monsieur de Torcy.

A Versailles, ce 29me Décembre, 1712.

VOUS nous avez renvoyé, my Lord, sous l'extérieur de Matthieu, le véritable fils de Monsieur Buys; il ne lui manque que de remplir la verre de son père. Il est d'ailleurs aussi Hollandois, & je crois beaucoup plus opiniâtre. Il a falu céder & se conformer presque à tout ce qu'il a voulu; encore n'étoit-il pas content; j'espère cependant que vous le ferez, & que toutes les difficultés qui arrêtent encore la signature du traité vont être levées; mais je vous avoue, que je m'attends à des reproches terribles de la part des Plénipotentiaires du Roi, qui disputoient fortement avec les vôtres sur des articles que Matthieu a obtenus sans beaucoup de peine, & peut-être avec moins de raison. Enfin je crois que vous ferez plus content de son Excellence que je ne le suis, & j'espère que Monsieur le Duc de Shrewsbury, que j'attends à tout moment, trouvera que les choses ont été bien avancées. Je ne doute pas aussi qu'on ne les avance du côté d'Utrecht, & que vos alliés ne se mettent à la raison.

Il faut laisser présentement à Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont à vous entretenir sur ces matières ; mais je vous supplie, my Lord, de ne me pas donner mon congé ; je vous assure, que quand je serois réduit à ne vous écrire que des lettres de bonnes fêtes, j'aimeerois mieux vous en importuner que de me croire exposé à être oublié de vous.

Avant que de recourir à cette dernière ressource, vous me donnez, my Lord, de nouveaux sujets de vous remercier des bonnes que offices vous continuez de rendre au Duc de St. Pierre. Il n'y a certainement personne à qui j'aime mieux être obligé qu'à vous, & ma satisfaction sera parfaite si je trouve jamais les moyens de vous marquer que je suis, avec l'attachement le plus sincère, &, permettez-moi de dire, le plus tendre, votre, &c.

DE TORCY.

Matthieu m'a dit, Monsieur, qu'il dépêchoit un courier à Angleterre, ainsi vous serez informé par lui de l'état où nous avons mis le reste des difficultés qui arrêtoient encore la conclusion du traité.

Au nom de Dieu, donnez ordre à Mes-

fieurs vos Plénipotentiaires, d'être moins bons grammairiens ; les nôtres qui entendent aussi la force des expressions Latines s'impatientent de voir renaître des difficultés terminées il y a long-tems, & d'en voir former des nouvelles sur la différence de cession & de restitution & sur les attributes de ces deux termes. En vérité, ces questions ne devroient pas amuser d'honnêtes gens. On les pardonne tout au plus à ceux à qui l'on répond *amantium iræ*. Terminez donc, Monsieur, des disputes dont nos ennemis seuls profiteroient si elles duroient encore long-tems.

Vous laissez ennuyer Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont à Boulogne, & je suis persuadé que depuis qu'il est en cette ville, l'impatience qu'il avoit de passer en Angleterre est encore augmentée ; j'en aurois beaucoup, si j'étois en sa place, de vous assurer que personne n'est avec plus de vérité, & plus parfaitement, Monsieur, votre, &c.

DE TORCY.

To Sir Thomas Hanmer.

S I R,

Whitehall.

IF you received no letters from me upon your arrival at Paris, according to my promise, it was because I found all my acquaintance there prepared to do the honours of their country ; and I must have been guilty of an impertinent affectation, if I had gone about to recommend one whose personal merit being already known, had done that office much more effectually for himself. The Duke and Duchess of Shrewsbury will be arrived, I hope, long before this letter comes to your hands. I envy no pleasure which so good a friend enjoys, but I shall often wish myself with you, and shall form in my fancy a multitude of agreeable parties, the amusements of which I long to share.

If I have the honour of a line from you, pray give me some account of Mat's private life. Once I was in the gentleman's secret ; but his last dispatch contains, in almost a ream of paper, nothing but solemn accounts of business, such as made me expect to find

T 2

Jo.

Jo. Werden, instead of Mat. Prior, at the bottom of the voluminous epistle. We hear much of a certain eloped nun, who has sup-
planted the nut-brown maid.

The last letters from Madrid, and the last conferences which we had with the Marquis de Monteleon, give us reason to hope that we shall soon settle every thing with the Court of Spain, in a manner agreeable to them, and not a little advantageous to us. The differences with France are, I think, reduced to two short propositions; though the Plenipotentiaries of Utrecht seem still to think themselves at a great distance from each other; the Dutch will submit, and the Most August Emperor must submit. Thus are we come very near a conclusion; but I am not, however, sanguine enough to imagine that a peace, signed and ratified, can be laid before the Parliament at the time to which the two Houses stand now prorogued. I take it for granted, that the session will be deferred at least a fortnight or three weeks farther.

May I ask when you design to return to us?—Wherever you are you have not a more faithful and obedient, humble servant than, &c.

To

To the Earl of Strafford.

MY DEAR LORD,

Whitehall, January 3d, O.S. 1712.

I AM really in such a situation that it is impossible to be punctual, as I would always wish to be in my correspondence with your Lordship; which, as I know you are not ignorant of, so I know you are just enough to give allowances for it.

I begin now by heartily congratulating your Lordship on the fair prospect which we have before us of ending this tedious, intricate, and so much traversed negociation. I judge as you do of the French impatience, and have seen in my correspondence the same symptoms thereof which you are pleased to mention.

We are going to dispatch a courier to Spain, in concert with the Marquis de Monteleon; and I hope all matters are as good as settled with that Court, in a manner extremely advantageous and honourable to the Queen. I gave your Lordship a character of Mr. Gilligan, and can assure you, that he has more than answered all I said of him.

Your Lordships will draw your treaties
T 3 with

with France now into a perfect form, and then we may venture to meet the Parliament, from whom I dare prophecy that such of the allies as hang back will receive little encouragement.

Really, my Lord, the French are impertinent, in pretending to impose as conditions, what, if they had offered with that air, would not have been accepted. The two papers mentioned were sent by Mr. Prior, and put by him into my hands, without one word to accompany them, from Monsieur de Torcy; I forgot to give them to you, which might be occasioned by the little weight which was laid on them, and I sent them as soon as I thought of them: but enough of a matter which does not deserve the trouble your Lordship's good-nature towards me makes you take. If the French can get these exceptions out of their cession, it is well for them; but, I beseech your Lordships, let not Monsieur de Polignac, nor Mesnager, nor any one else, presume to say they were made conditions of the cession of Tournay, for it is false, and I will justify it to be so.

The Bishop's* conduct is, I own to your

* Of Bristol.

Lordship,

Lordship, very unaccountable; the papers were sent as papers which I omitted by mistake to give you, and ought not to have been kept from you; as to his knowing Prior's plan, brought from France, I confess I am in the dark. I know nothing brought by Prior more than what you, my Lord, was apprized of when you was here; and if there was any thing farther brought, which I do not believe, I am not, upon my honour, in the secret. What has passed, I agree with you, should never be spoken of, and I promise your Lordship never to speak of it; but on this occasion I cannot help to you, as a friend, to take notice, that I writ some private letters to my Lord Privy Seal, at times when you was absent from Utrecht, to which he never condescended to afford the least answer; particularly once I acquainted him with some informations which I had of very scandalous discourses held by Mr. Jefferies, concerning the Queen's measures; and I added, that I had not complained to her Majesty of the gentleman, because I knew he had been recommended by his Lordship. I am not conscious that I ever did any thing to deserve his Lordship's contempt or

neglect, and therefore am the less concerned at either.

I understand, by your Lordships' joint-letter of the 10th, the state of commerce better than I did before, and hope on Tuesday to clear up the clouds, and enable your Lordship to conclude: let me desire, that when you have done so, you will propose to have copies made, examined, and agreed to, by the French and your Lordship, and these copies to be sent to the respective Courts.

Be so good as to comfort Westcombe.—I may give you the true reason, though I dare not give it him, of his being disappointed: I spoke formerly to the Queen for the Consulship of Bourdeaux for him, and I thought, indeed, that the Queen had promised it to him; since that, application has been made, underhand, for another, and has succeeded. All I can do at present is, to offer to use my interest to procure him the Consulship of Flanders, the drunken beast who has it being no longer to be endured.

My good Lord, believe, &c.

To

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, January 7th, O.S. 1712-13.

THE liberty your Grace allowed me to take of troubling you some times with my letters, is so much to my advantage, that you must not be surprized if I begin thus soon to make use of it.

The Duke d'Aumont arrived here on Friday, and, according to his calculation, your Grace arrived the same day at Paris, so that I make no doubt but the Queen's Ministers having sent you from Utrecht an account of the present state of things, your Grace has by this time brought the negotiation out of the labyrinth into which it began to be carried.

The last letters which I have received from the Plenipotentiaries put the dispute as to commerce in a very clear light, and if my Lords had explained themselves sooner in the same manner, they would have escaped the trouble of reading, as I should have done of writing, some very voluminous dispatches.

I wish they may understand rightly the intention of the French, if there is no mistake
between

between them, that great bone of contention is very near removed. They say now, that we are to be allowed all the benefits of *amicissima gens* in France, and the French the same in Britain. That in consequence hereof, we are to be allowed the tarif of 1664; not on our bringing the duties laid by that tarif on British goods, but on our bringing the duties here on French goods to the same proportions as other nations pay here for goods of the same sorts. My Lords add, that the work of the Commissioners is to be only this: that whereas in the articles excluded we demand something more than what the general title of *amicissima gens* entitles us to, these Commissioners are to settle an equivalent for so many of such concessions as France shall make.

Upon this foot, your Grace sees, a great part of the difficulties apprehended is removed, since France gives up the principle which we thought they adhered to, of obliging us to make a tarif proportionate to that of 1664. I confess, Mr. Prior's letters led me to think that this difficulty still subsisted; but since it is vanished at Utrecht, I take it for granted you do not meet with it at
I
Paris.

Paris. We are pretty safe if nothing is to be referred to Commissioners, but what we demand in reference to the four excepted species, or over and above the tarif of 1664; and yet, I should hope, that till the last these points need not be absolutely yielded, though I think the Queen would much sooner refer them than delay signing her treaty a day.

The other principal article of dispute, is about North America. By what Mr. Prior writes, I perceive the French are already come to that expedient, which I had prepared to be offered if nothing else would do, and which was not thought proper to be made an instruction to your Grace. They must make us easy in agreeing to what you have to ask; the difference to them between not fishing at all on the coast of Newfoundland, and being confined to fish in the northern parts only, cannot possibly be very momentous, when they have the entire coast of Cape Breton to themselves; but the difference to us is very essential, with respect to popularity and opinion, between having the island absolutely without any interfering right, and having the sovereignty of the whole, whilst they remain entitled to put
part

part of it to the only use for which it is valuable.

My Lord Treasurer has been very much indisposed, and that indisposition has retarded the departure of the Marquis de Monteleon's courier, whose dispatches would, I believe, wind up our disputes with Spain; we hope, however, this week the letters may be sent.

Thus, my Lord, the Parliament not meeting till the end of January or beginning of February, the Queen will be able to speak of her own interests as determined. That those of her allies are no farther settled, she will attribute to the true causes; and if the Dutch and Imperial politicians do once more wait for miracles to be wrought in their favour by the Whigs in Parliament, I make no doubt of their being disappointed, since we are solemnly promised that our whole strength is to appear on the first day of the session.

I omit to take notice to your Grace of any other differences still subsisting between us and the French, because they are really unworthy of your Grace's attention, and besides in a letter to Mr. Prior, which answers
all

all the parts of two I received from him, I enter into this detail.

I inclose to your Grace, the letter of the States to the Queen, and her Majesty's answer; by the next courier, you shall receive their remarks, and our answers to them: if you find any thing harsh, your Grace must attribute it to the knowledge we have that the Dutch change only in appearance, and that even these submissive measures are taken in concert with our Whigs here. From hence your Grace easily judges how necessary it is soon to be at a certainty with France and Spain. I will add another reason for coming to an agreement of every thing at Paris, and that is, that I find some people in Holland unwilling to have done.

The Queen has been out of order with the gout in her arm, and a cold, but the indisposition is of no consequence.

I shall do myself the honour to write to your Grace on Saturday next, and am, with the truest respect, my Lord,

Your Grace's, &c.

A Madame

A Madame de Fériole.

De Whitehall, ce 7^{me} Janvier, V.S. 1712.

EN vérité, Madame, vos lettres me rendent confus, & au lieu de me savoir bon gré des petits services que j'ai tâché de rendre à Monsieur l'Abbé de Tencin, je suis au désespoir de n'avoir pu répondre d'une meilleure manière à toutes les bontés que vous avez pour moi. Conservez-moi, s'il vous plaît, une place dans votre souvenir, comptez que par la bonté de mon cœur je tâcherai de suppléer aux défauts de mon esprit, & que désespérant de réussir du côté de la tendresse, je ferai mes plus grands efforts pour réussir du côté de l'estime. Je suis, Madame, & je serai toujours, avec un respect infini, votre, &c.

A Madame la Marquise de Croissy.

De Whitehall, ce 7^{me} Janvier, V.S. 1712.

JE vous jure, Madame, que je rougis de honte, quand je songe à la peine que vous avez prise, pour me faire avoir les deux plus jolies bagatelles que j'ai jamais vu. L'ouvrier a eu tort,

tort, Madame, en ne pas comprenant qu'une tabatière de bois fut de mon gout. Quand l'intérieur est beau, il n'y a rien qui me charme comme une simplicité pas dehors, & je connois bien de gens qui feroient infiniment meilleure figure dans le monde s'ils ressembloient un peu plus à cette tabatière.

Au reste, Madame, il ne faut pas que je vous importune de toutes les façons, il est tems que je finisse ma lettre en vous suppléant de croire que je suis, avec tout le respect & tout l'attachement possible,

Madame, votre, &c.

Je prends la liberté de vous envoyer, Madame, de l'eau de miel, de l'eau de Barbades, & du vin d'Espagne, qui réussiront, j'espère, mieux qu le cidre.

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

January 14th, 1712-13.

I VENTURE this letter by way of Dunkirk, to tell you that his Grace of Shrewsbury arrived here yesterday, and has had a conference with Monsieur de Torcy this morning; his Grace goes to Versailles or Marli (for which

which of the two is not yet determined) on Monday, after which you will hear from us: in the mean time, we daily expect to hear from your Lordship, in answer to the two points of Newfoundland and commerce, which is the occasion of troubling you with this at 12 at night, January 14th, 1713.
 Your's, M. PRIOR.

To Mr. Prior.

DEAR MATT,

Whitehall, January 7th, O.S. 1712.

THERE is a very formal dispatch, in answer to every paragraph of your letters begun, but business intervenes, and this courier goes to-morrow morning, so that you must, *pour le coup*, be satisfied with this short *billet-doux*. The substance, however, of every thing material is in my letter to the Duke of Shrewsbury. You have before you but two points of view of consequence, finish them well, the other matters cannot be finished ill.

We shall send a courier to Spain, on Saturday, he passes by Paris, and by him you shall have the letter which I intended by this opportunity to have sent you. Adieu.

The truffles were good; I gave them the Queen, she liked them, wished they had been marbré within, I give you the hint. I enquire of Sir T. Hanmer, after your private life. Again, Adieu. I am ever yours.

May I take leave to assure my Lady Ducheſs of my moſt humble ſervices?

A Monsieur de Torcy.

MONSIEUR,

De Whitehall, ce 7^{me} Janvier V.S. 1712-13.

IL ne faut pas que le courier du Duc d'Aumont part ſans qu'il vous porte de mes nouvelles. J'ai goûté trop long-tems de la douceur de votre correfpondance, pour pouvoir conſentir à en être privé; & de tous les avantages que Dieu, la nature, ou la fortune, ont donné a Monſieur le Duc de Shrewſbury, celui que je lui envie le plus eſt de ſe trouver dans une ſituation où il vous voit tous les jours, & où à tous momens il peut jouir de votre converſation.

J'eſpère, Monſieur, que les diſputes entre Meſſieurs les Plénipotentiaires ſeront, à l'heure qu'il eſt, finies, puisqu'il m'a paru par les let-

tres que j'ai reçu du royaume d'Utrecht, qu'on commençoit à s'approcher sur cet article du traité de commerce, qui a été le principal sujet de leurs différens, & qui peut-être n'a jamais été trop bien éclairci, de part ni d'autre.

Il y a de certaines choses qui ne sont de conséquence que parce qu'on les disputes, la différence entre les termes *cedendis* & *restituendis*, entre *assumpsit* & *usurpavit* ou *arrogavit*, n'est pas fort essentielle; les esprits ne sont pourtant un peu aigris dans la dispute, & il a fallu prendre quelque peine pour convaincre de certains gens que la chose ne méritoit aucune attention.

Depuis que j'ai su que le Duc de Shrewsbury a passé la mer j'ai eu l'esprit en repos; finissez au nom de Dieu avec lui, & quand vous aurez fini, écrivez de concert aux Plénipotentiaires à Utrecht. Je compte que les points que nous avons eu à démêler avec la cour d'Espagne sont terminés par la facilité que la Reine a donnée. Ainsi, Monsieur, sa Majesté pourra ouvrir la séance du Parlement, en parlant de la négociation avec la France & l'Espagne comme conclue.

Je ne fais s'il n'y a quelques-uns encore parmi les ministres d'Hollande, qui se flattent de

de pouvoir brouiller les affaires, par les intrigues qu'ils continuent à trâmer avec les factieux des deux Chambres. Je vous avoue que je ne le crains pas, & je fonde mes assurances, non-seulement sur la fermeté qui se trouvera ici, mais aussi sur la droiture & sur la modération qui se rencontrera de votre côté.

Il est tems de finir & la négociation & ma lettre, en vous assurant que je suis, & que je serai toute ma vie, Monsieur, votre, &c.

B.

To Lord Lexington.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, January 7th, 1712.

I HAVE waited for the opportunity of writing to you which now offers, and which I embrace with pleasure.

By the papers inclosed, your Lordship will see that the Queen has gone the utmost length she is able, in her compliance with the King of Spain, and your Lordship will please to make the Ministers at Madrid sensible of this, as I think we have made the Marquis de Monteleon.

In short, my Lord, there is no more time

to be lost, and we must either agree on these overtures, or we may be carried into another campaign.

As the Spaniards are very uneasy under the article of 15 *per cent.* so it is to be hoped they will readily submit to those terms which are stated as the equivalents for it, and then our essential points are concluded.

The bargain made for six French ships to trade to the South Sea, gets wind, and makes the noise, and has the effect, which your Lordship may imagine; it is of absolute necessity to prevent the execution of this contract, which would have the most mischievous consequences, by reviving all those jealousies that first caused, and afterwards animated the war, and that are hardly yet extinguished. The Queen does her part, and I may say, the court of Spain will be left without excuse, if they persist in a measure so dangerous, so destructive of their true interest, and so repugnant to their ancient maxims. Once more, my Lord, it is high time to conclude; the Parliament stands now prorogued to the third of February, O.S. the Queen must speak of her interests as determined with France and Spain; should the negociation afterwards appear to be still open,

open, nobody can answer for the consequence.

I cannot help thinking that it is desirable, as soon as Mr. Gilligan and the commissioners appointed to confer with him have agreed, that this agreement should be drawn into form, signed by your Lordship and a Spanish Minister, and sent by the courier who brings this dispatch immediately hither. And now, my Lord, give me leave to say, as your humble servant, I must take part in the satisfaction you will feel, and in the honour you will have, by concluding matters of so great importance to the service of the Queen, and to the lasting advantage of our country.

I hope and I persuade myself that Mr. Clemente * has been of use to your Lordship, in which case I make no doubt of your being a kind patron to him. The Marquis de Monteleon has promised me to recommend him to his Court, and if the impressions which I heard were given of him, such a recommendation will not be unseasonable.

The Dutch, the Emperor himself, and the other allies, begin now to treat, and will I be-

* The reader will recollect that Clemente was the discoverer of Count Gallas's proceedings.

lieve, conclude a peace, since a war is no longer practicable; but I doubt their pretensions are higher than the conjuncture which their obstinacy has produced, will admit of.

I am, my Lord, &c.

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Paris, January 8th-19th, 1713.

IMMEDIATELY upon my Lord Duke's arrival, I showed his Grace the proposals I had given to this Court as an overture for our commerce, as likewise those which I received from Monsieur Desmarais, upon which I expect your Lordship's observations and directions; what Monsieur Desmarais has since said to me, and Monsieur de Torcy to his Grace, is just an explanation of the same thing: that the French use other nations as they do their own subjects; which, on the contrary, they do not, requiring from all strangers and aliens, duties, &c. and having laid higher duties than any other people in Europe, upon all nations whatsoever; and consequently that the French, upon the foot of *gens amicissima*, could promise

mise themselves no other certitude than that the usage they would receive from us, in relation to what others receive, would be tolerable, but in relation to what we should receive from them, it would be very unequal. That they never intended to give the tarif of 1664 to the Dutch, without some considerable exceptions, particularly that of cloth and ferges; so that if they could allow us the certain advantages of this tarif, while they lie under the uncertainties into which our propofal would throw them, we should not, however, obtain what we aim at, which they think is to pour immediately into France fuch vast quantities of cloth as would glut their markets at present, and overstock them for feveral years to come. The reason, say they again, why they treat with the Dutch upon 1664, is, that fince that time the States have not augmented their imports upon French goods, yet the courfe of the French commerce, and their reasons of ftate, have obliged them, as your Lordship hears often enough from Utrecht, to except to the Dutch fome species out of the tarif juft now mentioned. The fame referve they had in the treaty of

U u 4 commerce

commerce with Holland, at Ryfwick, article 12 :

L'on fera un nouveau tarif commun, & suivant la convenance réciproque, dans le tems de trois mois ; & cependant le tarif de l'an 1667 sera exécuté par provision : & en cas qu'on ne convienne pas dans le dit tems du dit tarif nouveau, le tarif de l'an 1664 aura lieu pour l'avenir.

Now, say they, the English have increased their imposts upon French goods almost every Parliament since 1664 ; if, therefore, they fix that year as the epoch from whence their commerce shall be dated, in relation to that of this kingdom, there must be a *réciprocité* on both sides as to the time : Monsieur Desmarais insists, that even then the balance lay evidently on the English side. This, upon the whole, they propose as the basis upon which our commerce may reciprocally rest, and to which both nations should endeavour to bring it. That provisional articles may be drawn up accordingly, to be inserted in a treaty of commerce, in which all other national points may be adjusted, and a time therein specified, in which both nations shall endeavour to bring their
acts

acts of parliament and edicts to this certain point.

The farm of tobacco*, they insist, is an annual fund, appropriated to the King's use, and more certain as to its produce than any other in France; and that our merchants, in this case, have no other reason to complain than their own, being both upon equal foot.

The matter of Consuls they will, I see, reject; none of that kind, as they say, being allowed in this nation; and they desiring to have none with us, all mercantile disputes being referable to the Ministers which each nation may respectively have in the Court of the other: but this is only what I have gathered in discourse with them, and shall represent or drop as you please to send me her Majesty's commands.

I send your Lordship, by the Duke of Shrewsbury's knowledge and direction, the inclosed memoir †, concerning Newfoundland,

* In France, the taxes and duties were farmed, in the same manner as our post-horse tax.

† From Monsieur de Torcy, January 14 and 17, in relation to Newfoundland.

“ THAT when the French gave up to the Queen the property of Newfoundland, they still reserved to themselves the right of fishing, as specified in the preliminary.

“ That

land, as his Grace sends it to my Lord Dartmouth.

I am ever, my Lord, your Lordship's, &c.

M. PRIOR.

“ That in all which passed since, they have constantly repeated and insisted upon the right thus reserved.

“ That they have as constantly asserted their right to Cape Breton, and have never receded from it.

“ That the fishery of Cape Breton is insufficient, with relation to the extent of that coast; and that it is not of the same kind with that which they still reserved to themselves on the coast of Newfoundland.

“ That the Newfoundland fishery is absolutely necessary for the support of the kingdom in general, and more particularly for the subsistence of the maritime provinces of West France, where thousands of families would be reduced to beggary, in case that fishery be taken from them, and will suffer very much by the concessions already made.

“ That if, as they take for granted, we propose to extend and advance our own fishery, we have actually done it, both as to Newfoundland and Acadie (1); but if, on the other hand, we propose utterly to destroy their fishing trade, it is what from the first they never intended to submit, and to which they never can consent.

“ In case therefore it may not be thought fit to accept the proposition as sent by Mr. Prior, but that the Duke of Shrewsbury shall adhere to his last instruction, as it may be very reasonably apprehended that these people, rather than quit Newfoundland entirely, will stick to the general right of fishing, reserved to them in the preliminary article, still asserting their property to Cape Breton, as never given up; or yet if they hold us to the article, though they give up Cape Breton, having their eye still upon some other place or places in the islands of the Gulph of St. Lawrence, to fortify, and thereby facilitate their commerce to Canada; in either of these cases, and upon the whole that has been written upon this subject, her Majesty's final orders for the determining this article, are desired.”

(1) Nova Scotia.

Matt to Henry.

Paris, January 12th-23rd, 1713.

I HAVE heard no more from the Congress at Utrecht, than if it were the council of Jerusalem; what last I had from thence, I faithfully transferred to you, expecting your orders thereupon; if you agree with the proposal of Newfoundland, which is the same you and I (*N.B.* this is Matt and Harry) laid down; and if we can take 1664 for our plan, in order to reduce the traffic to that æra, the peace is made: otherwise, I see no shore; not but that I am ready to swim as long as you please in *alto mari* or *super altum mare*, for that you remember was a point of grammar long discussed; as are some other points, *arrogavit*, or *assumpsit*, &c.—*Parlons d'autres choses.*

I cannot thank you enough for the great confidence and prevention in which I find the Duke of Shrewsbury in regard to me, and my endeavours to serve him, which I know is owing to your good offices; pray go on with this piece of friendship to me, in testifying to his Grace, as you may think fit, how sensible I am of every particular mark and instance of his goodness: and pray
be

be assured that I shall behave myself to him, as becomes the man whom you have recommended as your friend.

I have made your compliments to my Lady Duchefs, and thank you for the hint as to the *marbré* in truffles. *Non sunt contemnenda quasi parva sine quibus magna constare non possunt.*

Monfieur de Torcy is very kind to poor Calandrine, and so I think will Desmarais be. Adieu ; your's ever,

M. PRIOR.

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Paris, January 12th-23rd, 1712.

I TAKE this opportunity of acknowledging the favour of your Lordship's of the 7th, O.S. which I received this morning ; I hope the dispatch in form which you promise me, will set us right in our two great points, of Newfoundland and commerce ; as to the first, what the Duke of Shrewsbury and myself have writ the 8th-19th, will shew your Lordship the sentiment and concern of your friend Torcy on that head ; and

as to the second, I should be very glad if the *amicissima gens* be so far settled at Utrecht, as your Lordship seems to infer; I have not heard from thence, otherwise than *viâ Whitehallicâ*; and what I have already writ to your Lordship on that subject, shows, that the Ministers here tend to another principle, viz. a reciprocal regard to the year and tarif of 1664. I believe the orders upon these two heads are already dispatched, and what I now write, is to desire your instant orders, and to assure you of my being, with great reason and strong inclination, my Lord, your Lordship's, &c.

M. PRIOR.

To Mr. Prior.

DEAR MATT,

Whitehall, January 19th, 1712-13.

THE long epistle * which comes with this, was writ in answer to part of your dispatches, and should have gone at least ten days ago to you; I doubt a great deal of it

* This is printed in Lord Hardwicke's Collection of State Papers, vol. ii. p. 504. It is omitted in the Copies of Letters by Mr. Hare; probably, because the Queen had altered her intentions, and this letter was not acted upon; the Editor has therefore omitted it here.

is not to the purpose, especially since the Queen's ultimate resolution, and the last expedient she can propose, comes by this courier to my Lord Duke ; however, it is writ, and had as good be burnt by you as by me.

We cannot persuade ourselves here, that the French act either fairly or wisely * ; they seem to press us to conclude, that they may have others at their mercy, and at the same time, they chicane with us concerning the most essential article of all our treaty, and endeavour to elude an agreement made, repeated, confirmed.

We do not desire to be treated as *amicissima gens*, nor to have the advantages of the tarif of 1664, until we have taken off prohibitions and duties to such a degree, as to put their merchants here on as good a foot as those of other nations † ; but can they, in the name of God, believe us weak enough to imagine that we shall ever obtain this

* The fact appears to have been, that the French Minister kept off, upon a supposition that the British Cabinet dared not meet the Parliament until the peace was concluded, or at least, until the interest of Great Britain had been definitively ascertained.

† Lord Hardwicke observes, that this was the clause in the Commercial Treaty which occasioned its rejection in Parliament, the great body of Merchants being against it.

tarif, if we consent to defer our claim to it until their Commissioners and ours shall have agreed upon a proportionable book of rates for Britain? Indeed, the fallacy is too gross; and, for my own part, I would sooner advise the Queen to give her just pretensions up on this head, than to suffer herself to be cozened out of them.

I must tell you, that, some how or other, a little air is gone abroad of this dispute, not enough to make the public masters of the particulars, but enough to give hopes to the Whigs, who begin to say, that they know France refuses already to keep touch with the Queen.

But there is another subject on which they triumph more; their letters from Holland inform them, that the French Ministers declare against those proposals relating to the Elector of Bavaria, which my Lord Strafford opened as overtures, likely to be made by France, and approved by the Queen. Should this be the case, and some papers put into my hands by the Duke d'Aumont, make me suspect it will be so, the French will indeed embarrass us, but they will spoil their own game too.

I have

I have exhausted all my stock of argument in the long letter which by the Queen's order I wrote to the Duke of Shrewsbury; to you I can only add, that we stand indeed on the brink of a precipice, but the French stand there too. Pray tell Monsieur de Torcy from me, that he may get Robin and Harry* hanged, but affairs will soon run backward into so much confusion, that he will wish us alive again; to speak seriously, unless the Queen can talk of her interest as determined with France, and unless your Court will keep our allies in the wrong, as they are sufficiently at this time, I foresee inextricable difficulties.

My scheme is this: let France satisfy the Queen, and let the Queen immediately declare, both to her Parliament and in the Congress, that she is ready to sign; at the same time, let the French Plenipotentiaries show a disposition to conclude with all the allies, offer to the Dutch which they have already offered, referring the four species to commissaries; offer to Prussia, and the other German Princes, whose interests admit of little dispute, complete satisfaction; yield to Savoy

* Oxford and Bolingbroke.

the small contested article, which they must confess is necessary, to give him the *sureté réelle* so frequently promised; consent to our proposition in behalf of Portugal; content themselves for Bavaria, which what my Lord Strafford opened, and even offer to treat with the Emperor, if expedients may be found to soften him on this and other heads.

If such overtures as these were not instantly accepted, our separate peace would, fitting the Parliament, be addressed for, made, approved, and the cause of France for once become popular in Britain.

If they were accepted, let Monsieur de Torcy sit down, and consider what a bargain would be made for France; let him remember his journey to the Hague, and compare the plans of 1709 * and 1712. You imagine we are, and shall be, in pain, till we receive your answers to these letters; should you fail our expectations, we must begin to act a new part.

Monsieur de Torcy has a confidence in you; make use of it once for all upon this occasion, and convince him thoroughly that we must give a different turn to our Parliament, and

* The preliminaries fabricated by the Pensionary Heinsius.

our people, according to their resolution at this crisis.

Adieu ; whether I have writ sense or not, you will know, I am sure I do not ; the incessant labour of four or five days, at committees, at conferences, in dictating, in writing, has almost crazed, your faithful friend,

BOLINGBROKE.

P.S. I think we have set things on a good foot with the Marquis de Monteleon, and am hopeful that we shall have nothing to do but to sign, at the return of the courier now dispatched.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, January 19th, 1712-13.

UPON a full and mature consideration of the letters which we have received from my Lords the Plenipotentiaries, as well as those which are come to my Lord Dartmouth's hands from your Grace, and to mine from Mr. Prior, her Majesty has resolved to take the negociation, if possible, out of that circle

in which it seems to have travelled round for some time, to no other purpose than to perplex the cause, to fow the minds of both sides, and to lavish away time, which ought, in our circumstances, to be husbanded with the utmost frugality.

The matters in dispute having been chiefly treated at Utrecht, and these transactions having by consequence gone through my hands, it fell likewise to my share, to communicate upon this occasion the Queen's sense, and her ultimate resolution, to your Grace.

Her Majesty, my Lord, observes, that there remain but two points of any moment relating to the interests of Great Britain and France undetermined; one in the treaty of commerce, and the other in the treaty of peace; and by what I am directed to say, your Grace will perceive, that the French, by accepting the overtures made to them upon the first, may conclude both at the same time.

In the articles signed by Monsieur de Torcy, in June last, which were, I believe, delivered to your Grace, and a copy whereof, for greater certainty, I here inclose, it is expressly agreed, that Great Britain and France shall grant to the subjects of each crown re-

ciprocally the same privileges and advantages with which they shall favour any foreign nation whatsoever; upon this foundation is the eighth article in the treaty of commerce drawn; and here the French have a second time established this principle, in the most comprehensive and positive terms; we are reciprocally to enjoy the same privileges, liberties, and immunities, *quibus amicissima quævis gens utitur, fruitur, gaudetque, aut in posterum uti frui aut gaudere possit*; this principle is again confirmed, by a provisional clause, even in the ninth article itself; but then this article stipulates at the same time, in the beginning, that commissioners shall meet, *quorum operâ commerciorum hac in parte impedimentis tollendis & vectigalibus componendis media æqua & utrinque utilia inveniantur & stabiliantur*, and declares in the end, that it has been likewise thought fit to leave to the commissioners *alia quædam longioris indaginis momenta discutienda*, to this purpose *ut utriusque partis rationibus & commodis de iisdem quantocius conveniri queat.*

The tenth article gives to her Majesty's subjects the advantages of the tarif of 1664, which having been promised to the Dutch,

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was, indeed, already virtually granted to them by the eighth article, but there is an exception of such merchandise as it has been thought fit to refer the discussion of to the commissioners appointed in the foregoing article.

These stipulations, the course of which I have abstracted, and your Grace will more at large consider in the treaty itself, have all along appeared to her Majesty ambiguous, and contrived, indirectly, to deprive her subjects of that which, having been solemnly promised, could not be directly refused; they have therefore never been approved by her; and the event has abundantly shown the Queen's suspicion to be just, and her caution reasonable; the Ministers of France being now driven from that artifice, under the cover of which they hoped to conceal their real meaning, do actually go back from what the King promised the Queen, and in terms refuse to stand to the principle of treating, and being treated, *ut amicissima gens*.

We are not, it seems, to have the tarif of 1664, and to be treated in France as well as the Dutch, when we treat the French, in Great Britain, as well as we treat any other

nation; but we are to have this tarif in France, when we can frame another in Great Britain exactly proportioned to it, for so Monsieur de Torcy explains himself, in the paper which he gave Mr. Prior, upon the seventh of this month, N.S.

My Lord, the Queen looks on this proceeding to be a direct violation of faith; and I believe when your Grace speaks again to the Ministers, you will not think fit to give it a much softer term: they should be made to understand, that they are removing a cornerstone, which was laid early in the foundation of a building brought almost to perfection, and the fall whereof must prove of at least as fatal consequences to them as to us.

The arguments made use of by those Gentlemen, as I find them in Mr. Prior's letters, are, in good measure, answered by the papers which your Grace carried over; but I confess I was strangely surpris'd, when I saw the precedent of the Ryswick treaty quoted; the behaviour of the French upon that occasion has given us warning; it is from thence we have learned that whatever is referred is given up; and they must have a mean opinion of those whom they would persuade to pursue,
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in order to get the tarif of 1664, the method by which the Dutch at that time lost it.

But were their arguments never so cogent, they are now no longer in season; had Monsieur Desmaretz formerly urged, that treating the subjects of France in Great Britain as well as the subjects of any other nation, was no equivalent for giving to the subjects of Great Britain in France the tarif of 1664, the debate had been proper; it is not the same now; they have consented to the principle of *amicissima gens*, they have promised the tarif above-mentioned to the Dutch, they must by consequence break their words, or give it to the Queen, and all their refinements upon trade come now too late.

Upon the whole matter, the single question is this: whether we shall enjoy the tarif of 1664 within a reasonable time after we take off our prohibitions, and reduce the duties on French goods to a proper proportion with those of the same sorts imported from other countries; and whether we shall be denied the benefit of the said tarif, until a number of French commissioners are satisfied that our book of rates is made proportionable to theirs?

Your Grace, will see, by a letter of my

Lords the Plenipotentiaries, of the tenth of this month, N.S. an extract whereof goes herewith inclosed, that the French Ministers at Utrecht, do now explain themselves more agreeably to their engagements than those at Paris; they allow and expect the rule of *amicissima gens*; they allow us immediately the tarif of 1664, in all points except the four species, and if the Dutch obtain any alteration in respect to these, we are to participate thereof; they are contented to wait till our duties on their commodities can be reduced to the proportion paid on the like goods brought into Britain by other nations: all they desire to have referred to commissioners, is the consideration of our demands about the four species, and about other points, not included in the general principle of *amicissima gens*,

Now, my Lord, though the stipulations which stand in the treaty of commerce, as above recited, do not seem to her Majesty clearly to speak this language, nor to express what these Gentlemen say they intend, yet it is no hard matter to take off all ambiguity; and upon this very foot, and upon no other, the Queen will agree with France.

I am

I am therefore commanded to acquaint your Grace, that having fully opened to the French Ministers, her Majesty's sense of the King's engagements to her upon this head, and of the present state of this dispute, you are to propose to them to strike out of the project of the treaty of commerce the ninth and tenth articles, and instead thereof to insert one to the effect of that which I have drawn, and which comes here inclosed; by this article they are made to give nothing but what we affirm, and sure no man living can deny, they have already solemnly yielded; a commission will be established to adjust those points which may remain undetermined at the conclusion of the treaty, and an opportunity will be created of settling in time a system of commerce, still more reasonable than that which will be in force at first.

If the French close with this overture, her Majesty is willing to accept of the last expedient proposed by Monsieur de Torcy, for adjusting our differences about North America, and to consent that the King in the cession of Newfoundland, do reserve to his subjects, a right of fishing and drying on the coast of that island, from Point Riche,
north

north about, to Cape Bonavista. But if your Grace cannot prevail upon them to agree with you in the article of commerce, you are to declare to them, that neither will the Queen agree with them in their proposition concerning Newfoundland.

It is, my Lord, of absolute necessity, that a moment of time be not lost on the part of France in coming to a resolution, since your Grace may depend upon it, that our Parliament must sit on the third of February next, and her Majesty will be then obliged to communicate the present state of the negotiation to both Houses. Your Grace will express to Monsieur de Torcy, much better than I am able to do to you, how smoothly every thing would glide along, if the Queen was able to speak of her own interests as absolutely determined with France; and, on the other hand, what traverses we shall be exposed to, and what confusion may arise, if our negotiation appears to be still open, and if the secret comes to be divulged, that France refuses to make good in the treaty, the full effect of former promises to the Queen.

Having now finished all which I had in
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command to say to your Grace, concerning her Majesty's particular interests, I am to speak to you upon the general plan of peace, and to inform your Grace, that you may inform the ministers of France, what the measure of her Majesty's conduct will be, and what they may expect from her.

You know, my Lord, very well, that the rule which the Queen long ago laid down, was not to delay her peace, after the ungenerous and ungrateful treatment which she had met with from her allies, if they persisted in refusing to treat; but the French were at the same time told, that if the confederates should submit, and show a readiness to proceed in the negociation of peace, her Majesty would then be obliged in justice to keep measures with them. In short, that her conduct must be regulated to a great degree upon theirs.

This resolution, which the Queen continues to think agreeable to her honour and her interest, is still in force, and must therefore be applied to the present case.

Her Majesty inclines the rather to have the French Ministers reminded of this, because they seem, notwithstanding the concurrence

currence of the Dutch, and, I may add, of the Emperor too, and although the allies are grown more reasonable in their demands, still to desire that the Queen should precipitate the conclusion of her peace, and leave the whole confederacy at their mercy. But, however the designs and measures of the French Court may vary, and their Ministers be elated with a little turn of fortune, the Queen goes steadily on, and speaks the same language to them now as she did in August. Your Grace will therefore let the King know, that when the mutual interests of England and France are settled, as they will be if the propositions contained in the first part of this letter are accepted, the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain shall publicly declare in the Congress, that they are ready to sign with France, and shall therefore call upon the allies to quicken their negociation, and conclude without loss of time; that, in order to render this peace general, and to finish the treaty with the same candour and generous desire of restoring the peace of Europe with which it was begun, her Majesty expects that the Plenipotentiaries of France should, at the same time, instead of avoiding
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to confer with the Ministers of the confederate powers, shew a readiness to treat with all of them; and, laying aside the spirit of negociation, as soon possible, to close their great work. And, upon reviewing the present state of the differences between France and the several allies, the Queen does not see that the general peace can be long deferred, if all parties meet with a good disposition to bring it about. If the confederates should either seek unnecessary delays, or make unreasonable demands, which, in the present circumstances of their affairs, it is not very probable they will, her Majesty, who has induced them to treat, will, by the same measures, engage them to conclude; at least, she will think herself justified, after these repeated warnings, and this unexampled patience, to sign without them in this case, as she would have done had they still continued directly to refuse to treat at all. Your Grace will please to add, that, to make these measures effectual, nothing will be wanting but that the Ministers of France be instructed to treat in the same spirit; not to try the common expedients of negociation, but to go at once all those lengths which

which the desire of peace may render eligible.

I have the honour to transmit to your Grace, inclosed, copies of papers which I received from the Plenipotentiaries of the Duke of Savoy and which contain a proposition that may, in all probability, at last put an end to the dispute between the Ministers of France and those of his Royal Highness. Her Majesty thinks those small and inconsiderable districts of country which this Prince demands, in order to make Exilles, Fenestrelles, and the Valley of Pragelas, of any use to him, absolutely necessary; and the French Ministers themselves have indeed acquiesced that the necessity is real, and not affected, when they offered to agree at Utrecht, as an expedient for accommodating this dispute, that France should engage not to canton troops at any time in the villages on the Italian side of the Mount Genevre.

Thus, your Grace sees, the king of France cannot make good to his Royal Highness that *sureté réelle* which he promised to all the allies, unless he yield to this demand, which he therefore ought to do, without any equivalent,

and therefore the using or not using of that which I now communicated to you, is entirely submitted to your own prudence.

In the papers given in by the Duke d'Aumont, your Grace will find a very extraordinary turn given to the article relating to the Elector of Bavaria; as if the Queen had accepted, as a condition of the cession of Tournay, the extravagant demands which this Prince makes; nay, as if her Majesty had promised the King to procure the effect of them. How far the Queen went in this matter, your Grace is fully apprised. She was willing, in consideration of the King, as well as in regard to the unhappy circumstances of this Prince, to contribute to make the best bargain in the treaty of peace for him, which his and our circumstances would admit: and, therefore directed the Earl of Strafford to make an overture in the name of France, which was the utmost she expected to obtain, and which has already set all the Princes of the empire in arms; the Queen can do no more, and if the Elector is not satisfied to be treated for upon this foot, the Queen will interest herself no farther in his affairs, and he may very probably by those means fail of

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Sardinia, and continue an exile both from his German Provinces, and the Electoral College.

Your Grace will please to explain the Queen's sentiments very strongly, and show the Ministers that instead of grasping at any more for this Prince, the wisest measure that can be taken for his interest, is to think of means to bring the powers concerned into the scheme already proposed for him, or into equivalents for the same.

Her Majesty observes, no dispute remaining with France, about the interest of the States-General, unless it be as to the four species, it were to be wished that matter might be compounded; at worst, if that cannot be obtained, the Queen being willing to refer the consideration of them, as far as her interest therein is concerned, to commissioners, the Dutch can never refuse to do the same.

Monfieur Bruchiarde* was this day at a conference, which he had desired, with the Lords at the Cockpit, and the substance of what he opened is, that the King his master resigns himself and his interests entirely to the Queen; that he only desires his terms may

* The Portugal Minister.

be adjusted by her, and not left to the treaty at Utrecht; that he will sign his peace whenever she thinks proper to sign her's; that he knows her Majesty cannot, in the present circumstances of affairs, get all that she would for him; that he will be satisfied with whatever she can obtain; that he hopes to have some barrier, or, if not, a guaranty which shall be an equivalent security. He touched upon the demolition of Badajos, and seemed rather to wish than hope for Vigo; after which he let himself in to speak of those provincial treaties, extracts * whereof he had put into my
 Lord

* These extracts (the originals of which the Editor has) state, "That by a provisional treaty made at Lisbon, in 1699, with the King of France, the two Kings agreed to evacuate that district of country, on the coast of Brazil, situate between the River Yapoco, and the cape north of the river of the Amazons, inclusive. That this evacuation was to continue until by a definitive treaty the claims of the parties were ascertained.

"The other provisional treaty states, that the crown of Portugal was in possession of the colony of Le Sacramento, with its dependencies at Buenos Ayres; that about thirty years ago, and in time of peace, the Spaniards surprised this colony, but at the strong solicitation of the court of Lisbon, that of Madrid restored it to Portugal, by a provisional treaty, until the rights of the parties should be ascertained. That, however, at the commencement of this war, the Spaniards again took possession of this colony, and still retain it.

"By the alliance between France, Spain, and Portugal, to guarantee the succession according to the will of Charles II, it was proposed that these provisional treaties should be definitive, but (Bruschearde observes) that this would be the source of fresh disputes. He concludes with asserting, that there is due from the Spaniards, to the Portuguese Company,
 VGL. III. Y del

Lord Dartmouth's hands, and copies of those extracts are herewith transmitted to your Grace.

By this account, my Lord, you see how great an obstacle will be taken out of the way, and how far her Majesty's credit, and her good offices go every day, in procuring new facilities to render the general peace practicable; the Queen would have your Grace, without showing Monsieur de Torcy too particularly how low the King of Portugal sinks in his demands, let that Minister know, that the pretensions of this ally, to whom her Majesty is under stronger engagements by treaty than almost to any other, shall not retard the conclusion of the peace; your Grace will at the same time say, that the Queen will require at least the provisional treaties to be made definitive in his favour, and that she will expect particular engagements from France and Spain, for the security of his dominions in all parts of the world, of which engagements she will become guarantee.

del Affiento de Negros, a large sum of patacas, which is not denied that payment has been promised, and that it is but just that it should be provided for in the present treaty."

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This example should be a lesson both to the Elector of Bavaria, and to those who support him, and her Majesty would have your Grace urge it accordingly. Whenever she can be easy herself, or contribute to make others so, the effect always follows, and the Queen expects that on the King of France's part, the same should happen, especially since we are near the end of our labours, and one effort more may probably crown them all.

The Princes of the empire have no interests to settle that will occasion much dispute, or take up much time, any farther than the demands made in behalf of the Elector of Bavaria come in to puzzle the cause; they must therefore be left to be wrangled out at Utrecht, and as to his Imperial Majesty, he has run himself into such a labyrinth, that he must begin to help himself before the Queen can lend him her hand or speak for him.

This rough sketch of the general state of the treaty of peace, is sufficient at least to show how easily, and at how little farther expence the whole may be concluded; and her Majesty commands me to repeat to your Grace, that you should endeavour to make the French Ministers feel the necessity either of

closing with the allies, or of leaving them without excuse; but the chief point which I am to recommend, and your Grace to insist upon, is satisfying her Majesty in the difficulty arisen in settling the treaty of commerce.

The Queen complies as far as possibly she can, without actually giving up that which has been so long promised to her, and upon the faith whereof she has so long proceeded; it is therefore just that the French should comply with her, the Queen having once declared her interests to be settled, and her treaty ready to be signed, the general peace becomes from that moment easy; it is therefore wise that the French should comply with her; that they may do so, and that your Grace may to all the honours of your life, add the glory of giving the last stroke to this memorable negotiation, is the fervent prayer of, my Lord,

Your Grace's, &c.

BOLINGBROKE.

De

De Monsieur de Torcy.

A Marli, le 18^{me} Janvier, 1713, N.S.

FINISSEZ, my Lord, ce qui nous reste encore de difficultés ; il est tems en vérité que l'amitié se rétablisse puisqu'on le desire, & que les intentions sont également bonnes de part & d'autre.

Je ne vous fatiguerai pas du détail ennuyeux des contestations sur la pêche & la fécherie de Terreneuve ; j'en laisse le soin à Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont & à Monsieur le Duc de Shrewsbury ; je vous dirai seulement, bien franchement, que la proposition que Matthieu vous a envoyée est, suivant le langage Allemand ou Hollandois, notre *ultimatum*.

Terminez donc nos querelles ; qu'il ne soit plus question que d'amitié ; quelque étroite qu'elle puisse être entre les nations, vous ne devrez jamais qu'à vous-même, my Lord, celle que conservent pour vous tous ceux qui ont eu l'honneur vous connoître.

Je crois cependant mériter encore quelque distinction entr'eux, personne n'étant plus véritablement, & plus fidèlement, que je serai, Monsieur, votre, &c.

DE TORCY.

A Monsieur de Torcy.

De Whitehall, ce 20me Janvier, V.S. 1712-13.

JE vous jure, Monsieur, que si nous ne finissons pas, ce n'est nullement ma faute. Je souhaite par mille raisons une prompte conclusion du grand ouvrage de la paix; mais je la souhaite principalement parce que je vois que chez nous les esprits commencent à se lasser de l'incertitude.

Nos contestations à l'égard de Terreneuve ne feront point la pierre d'achoppement, pourvu que vous ne nous refusiez plus longtemps dans le traité de commerce, les conséquences d'un principe que nous avons envisagé depuis plusieurs mois comme établi, & hors de toute dispute la paix fera bientôt faite.

Il est inutile que j'entre dans le détail de cette affaire, qui a été terriblement brouillée à Utrecht. Monsieur le Duc de Shrewsbury vous informera des dernières offres que la Reine lui ordonne de faire pour accommoder ces différends, & des raisons sur lesquelles nous nous fondons, qui sont assurément trop solides pour ne pas avoir tout leur effet sur un esprit aussi-bien tourné, & sur un cœur aussi bien placé que le vôtre.

Au nom de Dieu, Monsieur, renvoyez ce courier sans perte de tems, avec le consentement du Roi aux propositions que Monsieur de Shrewsbury aura l'honneur de lui faire de la part de la Reine. Vous nous mettez par-là en état de triompher de ceux qui sont en même-tems & vos ennemis & les nôtres. Dans ce cas, la Reine parlera aux deux Chambres, dont l'assemblée ne peut être différée que jusques au 3me du mois prochain, V.S. des intérêts de la Grande Bretagne & de la France comme entièrement réglés ; sa Majesté dira, qu'elle va signer son traité, qu'elle a convié tous ses alliés à faire de même, & qu'elle leur a déclaré qu'elle est fermement résolue de ne pas tenir sa négociation plus long-tems ouverte.

Convenez avec moi, Monsieur, que l'écho de cette harangue, & des réponses du Parlement, se fera entendre à Utrecht, & inspirera l'amour de la paix aux guerriers les plus outrés. Vous finirez bien vite les affaires qui restent à être ajustées, & vous les finirez à la satisfaction du Roi.

Mais si à l'assemblée du Parlement notre négociation se trouve encore ouverte, je ne

faurai, en vérité, Monsieur, répondre des suites.

Les mal-intentionnés auront beau jeu; &, ce que je regarde comme le comble des malheurs, les bien-intentionnés se trouveront peut-être obligés de suivre les sentimens d'autres.

Monsieur d'Oxford & votre serviteur ont la mine de passer, dans ce cas, assez mal leur tems; je m'embarrasse pourtant beaucoup moins de cela, que du désordre que je prévois dans les affaires générales.

Vous voyez, Monsieur, que le plaisir que je trouve à vous écrire m'emporte.

Je veux me flatter que l'importance de la crise où nous sommes, servira d'excuse à la longueur de ma lettre, & que vous ne trouverez pas mauvaise cette franchise avec laquelle je vous conte naturellement mes craintes & mes espérances. Je suis, & ferai toute ma vie, Monsieur, votre, &c.

B.

To Mr. Gilligan.*

S I R,

Whitehall, January 25th, 1712.

I MUST begin my letter by making my compliments to you upon your great skill, industry, and success, wherewith you have proceeded in executing her Majesty's orders. I hope the latter, as I am sure the former, will accompany you to the end of your negotiations. We have done all we could to play the game into your hands, by gratifying the Marquis de Monteleon as far as our circumstances allow, of which I believe he is sensible, and will endeavour to make his court so likewise. Mr. Moore† writes so largely to you, that any thing which falls from my pen must be superfluous; give me, however, leave to mention to you the case of licences to French ships. This point is capital; and I am in very good earnest, when I say, that if the bargain made should go on to

* Manuel Manasses Gilligan, British Commissary at Madrid, to settle the treaty of commerce with Spain.

† Arthur Moore; had been Comptroller of Army Accounts, a Commissioner of Trade, and a Director of the East India Company; he was supposed to possess great commercial knowledge, and had the management of the treaty with Spain.

execution,

execution, I believe it would break all to pieces, and create a new ferment in Europe, which perhaps might cost more blood to extinguish.

The Queen offers fairly to prevent these mischiefs, and the Spanish minister seems assured, that her offers will be taken. Time presses extremely, and dispatch is of the utmost consequence. We hope this courier will soon return, with a conclusion of things on the foot of your last instructions.

I am, Sir, &c.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, January 20th, 1712-13.

YOUR Grace finds that we are, according to custom, hurried to do that in a fortnight *, which naturally should have been the work of a much longer time; we hope, however, that the Queen's demands are now set in so fair a light, that there can be no delay on the part of France, in agreeing

* The Parliament had, on the 13th, been prorogued to the 3rd of February, which was a fortnight from the date of this letter.

to them. If the Duke d'Aumont knows any thing of his own court, your Grace will carry your point and in this case, I hope the courier may return in twelve days at farthest. It is of the last consequence for them, for us, and for the whole affair, that the Queen be enabled to speak of her interests as determined with France, one battle will then decide all; otherwise we shall be every day exposed to new dangers throughout the whole course of the session. I send your Grace two blank proxies, for fear of accidents.

The Queen has been out of order, with the gout in her hand and in her foot; she is, however, extremely well, and her physician † seems rather to like than apprehend this attack. I am, &c.

From the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Paris, January 23d, N.S. 1713.

THIS morning I received your Lordship's of the 7th, O.S. and a courier being

† Doctor Arbuthnot; a man not more remarkable for his great professional skill than for his learning and his wit.

just

just arrived from Port Mahon, going into England, gives me an opportunity of answering it sooner than I expected.

I wish there be no mistake in what our Plenipotentiaries write to your Lordship from Utrecht, that the French have agreed we shall enjoy the benefit of the tarif of 1664, on our bringing French goods to pay in England the same that other nations pay for their goods.

The King and the Ministry have been at Marli ever since I came hither, so I have had no opportunity of discoursing on this subject; but I find Mr. Prior apprehensive this Court designs no more than what he has already acquainted your Lordship with; however, Monsieur de Torcy being expected at Paris on Thursday, Mr. Prior or I will speak with him, and if this be agreed, as you understand it, from Utrecht, one considerable difficulty is removed.

As to the other principal article in dispute, if her Majesty be determined to insist on my last instructions, and reject the expedient Mr. Prior sent over, I heartily wish he had notice of that resolution as soon as it was taken; for it has had an odd appearance,

pearance, and what they have difficulty to believe here, that Mr. Prior should be at liberty (as undoubtedly he was) to receive this alternative, and I, who came last from London, so straightly tied up, that I am obliged to declare I have no power to hearken to any expedient upon this point; it naturally leads them to suspect some trick, or that I am more stiff than I need to be, and, what is worst of all, discovers our irresolution, and so weakens all that can be said. I much question, if commanded to insist, whether this Court will yield, and if they should, am convinced it will cost a great deal of time to bring them to it, and your Lordship and Lord Treasurer must write resolute letters, in a manner telling them the peace can be had on no other terms: I shall not repeat their objections and difficulties, which were sent you by your last express.

I expect the next letters with impatience, as well to know what orders her Majesty will send upon what remains to be treated here, as to see the States-General's remarks and her Majesty's answer; for without them the letters give little light. I hope

hope your Lordship believes your letters will always be acceptable to me, who am, with the greatest sincerity, my Lord, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

From the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Paris, January 25th, N.S. 1713.

I AM just this minute come from Madame de Croissy, where I met Monsieur de Torcy, newly arrived from Marli, and by a very few words I had with him there, I am confirmed the article of our enjoying the benefit of the tarif of 1664 does not stand as your Lordship understood it from Utrecht; the French Plenipotentiaries, in their letters to him, do not look upon the difficulty as removed, but still subsisting: I thought fit to give you the first notice I could of this, though I doubt not but you have had it cleared before now by other letters from Utrecht. I am to see Monsieur de Torcy after to-morrow, and hope the courier you promised to dispatch last Saturday will be arrived before that time, with orders what I am to say upon the article of
New-

Newfoundland. Monsieur Desmaret's son marries the Marquis d'Alegre's daughter to-morrow: the King returns from Marli Saturday, and about the 6th of next month goes to Rambouillet, a house of the Count de Toulouse, which will prove another interruption to business, if what is to be done here cannot be concluded before the journey.

I am, my Lord, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, January 25th, O.S. 1712.

THOUGH your Grace has been troubled with several of my letters in the compass of a few days, I cannot however resolve to let this courier, who, in his way to Spain, passes through Paris, depart, and not take the opportunity of writing again to you.

Your Grace thinks the French may suspect some trick, or discover, which is worse, some irresolution in our councils; because Mr. Prior had consented to a proposition concerning Newfoundland, which you afterwards

wards refused to admit. I would fain hope, my Lord, that this proceeding, which however was not according to my scheme, might still have such a turn given it, as will make our conduct appear not only fair, but steady.

Why may not the French Ministers be told that the Queen would have consented at first, as she is ready to do now, to the cession of Newfoundland, with the restriction proposed, if they had not created unreasonable and unexpected difficulties on the article of commerce?

Her Majesty hoped they would be brought off a point which they had so ill a grace in controverting; and in that hope Mr. Prior was instructed. Her Majesty found they persisted to deny in the treaty what, in the course of the negociation, they had granted; and in that conjuncture your Grace was instructed. We flatter ourselves, my Lord, you will be able to dissolve a charm which seems to have influenced in a very odd manner this point of our work. Indeed, never poor proposition was so bandied about as this of using each other reciprocally, *ut amicissima gens*, has been. The French were in the right to perplex it, because they had a
mind

mind to evade it; but surely we, from the first, should have stuck to that plain article, which is contained in the papers drawn by Mr. Moore, and on which the last draught which I sent your Grace is grounded.

By the inclosed paper, which was brought me as a memorandum from the Duc d'Aumont, your Grace will see that the French take advantage of some terms used in a memorial of my friend Matthew's. I thought it absolutely necessary to knock that immediately of the head, and have therefore sent back the paper, with the marginal note which you will find added; but upon these mistakes, there is no need to trouble your Grace any farther, having writ to Mr. Prior upon them.

The courier who brings this letter, has been waiting a long time for one dispatch, the rest have been prepared at least three weeks. I thank God he goes at all, for I think he carries such temperaments and such expedients as will bring our Spanish part of the treaty to a conclusion.

There is one point which we write very strongly to the Court of Madrid upon, and as the rebound of these instances may pro-

bably very soon come to Paris, I believe it not improper to speak of it to your Grace, that you may either prepare the ministers of France for it, or be prepared when they shall attack you upon it. My Lord, the Queen had information of a contract made by the Count de Bergheyck *, for six French ships to go to the South Sea, their owners agreeing to pay the King of Spain 360,000 crowns, or else, at His Majesty's choice, to give him the ships, in order to supply his Treasury for the service of this year, or in order to enable him to begin at least to form a naval strength.

Your Grace easily imagines no time was lost in speaking to the Marquis de Monteleon upon a matter of such vast consequence. We represented to him that this proceeding would revive all those jealousies which began to be laid asleep; that it would make good all the arguments which have been insisted on by those who press the continuation of the war, and condemn in the opinion of mankind those who have been the instruments of promoting the peace, that if these permissions are granted for once after

* The Spanish Plenipotentiary.

the peace, they may by the same rule be granted for twenty times, &c. The Marquis agreed in these and a multitude of other arguments which were opened and enforced to him, and had no plea but the necessities under which his master labours, to excuse the step; having brought him thus far, we offered to take off these necessities, by lending the money, and furnishing whatever ships the King of Spain may have occasion for, without expecting, in consideration hereof, the liberty of sailing to the South Sea.

The Spanish minister seemed to catch at the offer; he writes to his Court about it, and Mr. Gilligan is instructed to make the annulling of this contract, one of the conditions on which he departs from the claim of 15 per cent. that grievous article to the Spaniards, and at the same time he is farther authorised to conclude the loan of the money, and the hiring or selling the ships.

Sir T. Hanmer having in a manner asked, whether the Queen approved or not of his going into Italy, I writ him word by her Majesty's order that she hoped she should have had his assistance in this session of Par-

liament; which certainly will be a very nice and difficult one to manage, and upon the proceedings of which our all, I think, is staked; I mention this matter, because Sir Thomas may probably communicate to your Grace what he debates in his mind, and you would be glad to know what the Queen's sense was.

I depended so much upon the Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht, for sending to your Grace whatever passes between the States and us, that I should not have troubled you with a volume of papers which accompany this letter, had your Grace not seemed in your's of the 23d to expect them from me.

I am, my Lord, &c.

*To Lord Lexington *.*

MY LORD,

THE foregoing letter has been writ several days, and the departure of the courier has been delayed by the Queen's having the gout in her hand, which hinders her from

* This was added by way of postscript to Lord Lexington's letter of the 7th January, 1712-13. BOLINGBROKE.

writing as she would have done to the Queen of Spain.

The inclosed paper of minutes being the result of a private transaction which her Majesty did not allow to pass the ordinary forms, I desire you, my good Lord, to keep it among your private dispatches.

I hope Mr. Gilligan is sufficiently instructed by the learned in trade, for my part, I pretend not to be able to enter into any detail of that kind, but this I can judge of, that our circumstances will no longer admit of being in a state neither of war nor peace, therefore pray, my Lord, press him to make an end with the Spanish Commissaries, and if any reasonable latitude be to be taken beyond what his instructions may strictly import, my opinion is, that it should be ventured upon, rather than that any thing should be left undetermined.

Your Lordship knows how very instrumental the Abbot Gaultier has been in carrying on the present negociation of peace, even in the first beginnings of the treaty, when the greatest danger was to be run, and the greatest dexterity was requisite. I find the Marquis de Monteleon designs to recom-

mend him to the King of Spain, and I believe the Treasurer does the same to the Princess des Ursins; I give your Lordship this hint, because I fancy you will think it proper to take a fit opportunity of speaking in his commendation, and of giving the most favourable impressions of him.

There comes with this courier a gentleman, who is of my name, and who being a Roman Catholic, has always been in foreign service; he was in that of the Elector Palatine, and left it only because of an affair which the brutality of his Colonel forced upon him. The Elector himself recommended him, and, indeed, nobody could leave a better name than he did behind them. He has a mind to seek his fortune in Spain; and that he may have a pretence to go thither, I commit this letter to his charge. The Marquis de Monteleon has, without my speaking to him, for I have nothing to ask of any Prince, but the mistress I serve, recommended him to the Court of Spain. Your Lordship will extremely add to the other favours I have received from you, if you are so good as to show him your countenance, and to speak of him as an honest man, a good officer, and
my,

my relation, if the latter may be of any use to him.

Forgive the length of my letter, and believe that I am, &c.

It was thought proper that I should make a compliment to the Princess des Ursins, and I do it by the inclosed—May I take the liberty to beg that your Lordship would render it acceptable by giving it to her?

To Lord Lexington.

MY LORD,

January 25th, O.S. 1712.

THE papers * not being put up with my other letter by mistake, I inclose them in a separate packet.

My Lord, ever your's.

* Mem. Inclosed were a copy of her Majesty's instructions to Mr. Gilligan, dated January 10th, 1712-13; a copy of the propositions made by Marquis de Monteleon; with the Queen's answers.

*A Madame la Princesse des Ursins **

MADAME,

De Whitehall, ce 25^{me} Janvier, V.S. 1712-13.

VOTRE Altesse peut voir jusques à quel point le Marquis de Monteleon s'est rendu maître de mon esprit, puisqu'il a su m'inspirer la hardiesse de lui écrire. Je fais tout le cas que je dois faire de l'amitié que ce Ministre a bien voulu me témoigner, mais en vérité, Madame, il ne m'a jamais fait, ni ne me fera jamais une faveur que j'estimerai tant que celle dont il vient m'honorer, en me fournissant une prétexte d'écrire à votre Altesse, & de lui marquer les sentimens d'un cœur qui est parfaitement dévoué à son service.

Tout serviteur que je suis à Monsieur de Lexington, je ne puis pas m'empêcher de lui envier le bonheur qu'il a de faire sa

* This lady had the ambition to become a sovereign; she had received a promise from the King of Spain, to grant her a territory equal to 30,000 crowns *per annum*, in the Netherlands; neither England nor Holland were much against it, and the Spanish Plenipotentiaries, desirous of pleasing her, insisted on a condition which the King their master treated as essential; the peace with Spain was thus at a stand. At length they were obliged to abandon her, the Emperor protesting against any dismemberment of the Netherlands, and Louis persuaded his grandson to prefer the repose of his people to the caprice of an old woman.

cour, sous la protection de votre Altesse, à cette Grande Reine d'Espagne dont les vertus héroïques font l'admiration du siècle présent, & feront celle de la postérité.

Comme Monsieur le Comte d'Oxford se donne l'honneur d'écrire à votre Altesse, il est fort inutile que j'entre dans aucun détail à l'égard des intérêts des deux cours. Je me flatte que Monsieur le Marquis de Monteleon a trouvé, dans sa négociation, toutes les facilités qui dépendoient de moi, & j'ose assurer votre Altesse qu'il trouvera toujours les mêmes.

Je n'ai manqué, Madame, d'envoyer à Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Reine toutes les instructions qui ont été jugées les plus convenables pour faire assurer à votre Altesse, dans le traité de paix, la principauté que sa Majesté Catholique lui a accordée. Je ne veux point douter que les soins que ces Ministres apporteront n'assortissent à cette occasion leur effet entier.

Ce qu'il y a de certain, c'est que je ne négligerai rien pour faire éclater le profond respect, & l'attachement inviolable, avec
lesquels

lesquels j'ai l'honneur d'être, Madame, de
votre Altesse, le très humble

Et très obeissant serviteur,

BOLINGBROKE.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.*

FORGIVE me, my Lord, if I encroach still farther upon your patience; the Venetian Ambassador sends me the inclosed, and desires me to write to you upon a subject which I really understand but by halves. I hope he explains himself in his letter to your Grace; all the notion I have of his request is, that you, my Lord, will please to soften the Court of France, who are angry with the Venetians because they will not, in violation of the constitution of their government, dispense with Cardinal Ottoboni for taking the Protectorship of France.

I have nothing particular in command from the Queen to say upon this subject; your Grace knows, in general, that her Ma-

* This is part of a letter to the Duke of Shrewsbury, of the 25th January, 1712-13. BOLINGBROKE.

jeſty

jesty has been all along inclined to favour the republic of Venice, as far as conveniently she could.

I have the honour to be, &c.

I beg leave to assure my Lady Ducheſs of my most humble respects, and I would, according to my promise, have had the honour before this of writing to her Grace, if any thing had happened which the relation of might serve to divert her; but we are entirely English, extremely dull.

To Mr. Gilligan.*

I CANNOT help adding to my letter, which has been some time writ, and has waited for the dispatch of the courier, that the Spanish Ministers may perhaps object, that we are asking ourselves for licences at the same time, and with the same breath, as we exclaim against those contracted for with the French, and as we demand the recal of them. Methinks there are two very good answers to be given to this objection:

* This was added to the letter to Mr. Gilligan, 25th January, 1712-13.

First,

First, since the Spaniards expect that the Queen should discourage and hinder her subjects from exercising that power which the law and charter gives to the South-Sea Company, and since the Queen has, in fact, hindered them from undertaking any thing on that side of the world, whilst they might, without giving Spain any just reason of complaint, have done, nothing is more reasonable than that an opportunity should be given the merchants of vending the goods bought in this prospect, and now lying upon their hands.

Secondly, the advantage of 15 per cent. stipulated to be made good to the subjects of Great Britain in their commerce, would not only have been grievous to the Spaniards, but would likewise have been a prejudice to all other nations trading to Spain; the yielding of this point up is, therefore, not only a concession to Spain, but to France also, and to the other mercantile people of Europe; from whence it plainly follows, that none of these ought to complain of what we purchase in effect, by yielding so great a privilege as that abovementioned.

Give me leave again to recommend dispatch

patch to you, and to tell you my opinion, that you will be very well justified if you do, in any instance, stretch your instructions to save time. I think, as to the ships to be lent or sold the Spaniards, you should turn your propositions the most plausibly you can: Will they, at least at first, not be in want of officers and seamen as well as ships?

I have sent my Lord Lexington a copy of your last instructions. I am, Sir, &c.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, January 27th, 1712-13.

EVERY delay which happens to obstruct the dispatch of this courier, produces a new letter to your Grace: the occasion of my writing now will, I am sure, equally surprise and concern you.

Yesterday, between three and four o'clock in the afternoon, a fire broke out in the Duke d'Aumont's house *, and raged with

* In Great Ormond-street; it was rebuilt at the charge of the French King, but has been many years since taken down, and upon its site stand at present Powis-place and the adjoining houses in Ormond-street.

so great fury, that, though there blew little or no wind, it was in two hours' time consumed to the ground. All that could be done was done, both to stop the fire, and to prevent the pillaging which generally follows in a confusion of that kind. A detachment of the horse, and another of the foot guards were sent; the Duke of Ormond, the Captain of the guard in waiting, which was the Earl of Arran, Sir William Wyndham, the Vice Chamberlain, and others, went to give the Duke d'Aumont all the assistance in their power. My Lord Dartmouth waited upon him this morning, at the Marquis de Monteleon's house, where he lay, as I had done the night before at the rising from the Council; and the Vice Chamberlain was afterwards with him, in the Queen's name. As for the loss which the Duke d'Aumont may have suffered by this misfortune, I am not able to say any thing particular to your Grace; but I am sorry to tell you that there appear several circumstances, which give great reason to apprehend that the fire was not accidental, but the effect of malicious and premeditated contrivance. This is extremely suspected

pected, not only from several private advices and warnings which the Duke had, and which he neglected, as her Majesty's servants do, who have frequent suggestions of the like nature, but also from fire-works and powder, which were observed to be scattered in several parts of the house, and from the fire's breaking out in a garret made use of for the Duke of Powis's lumber, and to which none of the Duke d'Aumont's family had any access. But strict enquiry is making into all the particular facts, in order to discover the authors of such a villainy; and in the mean time her Majesty has, by compliments and all manner of civility, softened as much as possible this matter to the Duke; and to make him more easy, has given him her own apartments in Somerset-house to lodge in, till he can find out another house for himself.

I believe the Duke intends to send a person on purpose into France to give an account of what has happened, which will undoubtedly make a great noise in that kingdom, and therefore I was willing by this messenger to inform your Grace of it as early
as

as I could, that you might be prepared to speak of it beforehand.

January 28th, 1712-13.

I WAS got thus far last night, but deferred closing my letter on account of an indisposition which the Queen was under, and which gave us, as every one, even the flightest, must do, some alarm. I can now acquaint your Grace, with great joy, that her Majesty rested very well last night, and is again extremely well, except as to some small remains of a fit of the gout, which has not entirely spent itself. I am, &c.

BOLINGBROKE.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

January 28th, 1712-13.

SINCE the other letter of this day's date was writ, several examinations have been had of circumstances advanced to prove that the Duke d'Aumont's House was set on fire. I cannot say, that they answer what I was made to expect; I intend to proceed
as

as far as I can in these enquiries, because, on one hand, I would not leave such a villainy undetected, and on the other, I should be sorry, undeservedly, to have such a reproach fixed on the nation.

I am ever, your Grace's, &c.

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Paris, February 2nd, 1713.

LA Vigne went from hence the 29th December, Barton the 8th January, and Berry the 19th, to all which we pause for a reply; and are so fully satisfied, that in a day or two we shall hear from you as to all points, that though we have determined to send away an express, we defer till Saturday, this being Thursday, confiding to the care of this gentleman only such letters as are not of great consequence.

The Duke of Shrewsbury has had a little fit of the gout; I have been with the Ministry at Versailles, of which you will have more by the express which the Duke intends shall not go from hence till Saturday, hoping,

in the mean time, that we may hear from you, and that you, having now before you all that has been done at Utrecht, will be able to give us the last peremptory orders, which we expect with great impatience.

I am, &c.

M. PRIOR.

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Paris, 4th February, 1713.

ACCORDING to what I promised in my last letter to your Lordship, I in this transmit the copy, of which his Grace of Shrewsbury has likewise transmitted to Lord Dartmouth*; by

* “ Comme en vue de faciliter l’ouverture & l’exercice du commerce réciproque entre la France & la Grande Bretagne, il a été convenu au mois de Juin dernier des deux articles suivans :

“ *Article première.* Qu’en cas qu’on ne tombe pas d’accord sur les points en dispute touchant le commerce, des commissaires soient nommés des deux côtés, qui s’assembleront à Londres, pour examiner & régler les droits & impositions qu’on doit payer dans chaque royaume; & qu’on les ajuste de telle manière que par-là le commerce entre les deux nations soit encouragé & élargi.

“ *Article second.* Qu’aucun privilège ou avantage par rapport au commerce de la France ne sera accordé à aucune nation étrangère, qui ne sera pas accordé en même-tems aux sujets de sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne; de même aucun privilège ou avantage par rapport au commerce de la Grande Bretagne ne sera accordé à aucune nation étrangère qui ne sera pas accordé en même-tems aux sujets de sa Majesté Très Chrétienne.

“ En

by which your Lordship sees our principle of *amicissima gens* agreed to, and the articles of less consequence, dependant upon it, answered by the French Plenipotentiaries of Utrecht *; from whence we presume you have

“ En vertu des susdits articles, il sera nommé des Commissaires, qui s'assembleront à Londres, pour examiner les droits & impositions qu'on doit payer dans chaque royaume, & les régler réciproquement à l'égard des deux nations, conformément à ce que payera la nation étrangère la plus favorisée en France d'une part, & de l'autre dans la Grande Bretagne, en sorte que les Commissaires étant d'accord, ce qui doit être dans l'espace de mois, le Roi donnera, & fera publier dans son royaume & pays de son obéissance, les ordonnances nécessaires pour faire exécuter ce qui aura été convenu entre les dits Commissaires, & lever tout empêchement au commerce en France, des sujets de la Reine de la Grande Bretagne; comme aussi de la part de sa Majesté Britannique, il sera pourvu à faire annuler tous actes de Parlement qui empêchent que les François ne soient traités dans les états de la Grande Bretagne, & de son obéissance, comme la nation étrangère la plus favorisée.

* “ *The French at Utrecht,*
20th January, 1713.

“ De tout tems les manufactures étrangères n'ont été admises en France que par des entrées réservées, où elles étoient visitées de la même manière que le sont les ouvrages du royaume. Celles d'Angleterre entroient par la Normandie, la Bretagne, & la Guienne; & s'il s'en trouvoient des vicieuses, elles étoient confisquées.

“ On dérogea à la confiscation en 1606, par le traité de Paris du 24me Février, &

on

“ *Concerning the Articles.*

“ As to visiting and confiscating of manufactures, upon pretence of fault or fraud in the making or fabricating thereof, &c.

A a 2

Relating

have received them, considering the date they bear of the 20th January; it is humbly submitted

on stipula que les mauvaises manufactures seroient renvoyées sans droit de sortie. Cette disposition fut confirmée en 1655, par le traité de Westminster, & depuis on a continué de réserver l'entrée des manufactures étrangères par des lieux désignés, & la visite en a toujours été faite depuis ce tems-là; ce sont des lois fondamentales du royaume qu'on ne pourroit abolir.

“ On ne pourra accorder aux navigateurs Anglois la navigation de port en port en France, qu'à condition qu'elle fut permise aux François en Angleterre; sans cette réciprocité on ne peut l'accorder en France aux Anglois, & ils ne peuvent la demander; encore faudroit-il par la même raison que les cinq schellings fussent réduits à la moitié, parce que ce seroit à-peu-près la valeur de 50 sols de France.

“ Il est vrai que par le traité de Ryswick la France accorda cette faculté aux Hollandois, sans stipuler le réciproque pour les François en Hollande; mais c'est uniquement à cause que le commerce de la Hol-

lande se faisant par les canaux, ne peut se faire par mer de port en port, ce qui est fort différent dans les vaisseaux de la Grande Bretagne; d'ailleurs les Hollandois ont toujours payé le droit en question sur toute la capacité du vaisseau, sans avoir égard à sa charge.

“ Quant à l'abolition de ce droit pour les vaisseaux qui arriveront d'Angleterre, ou des autres endroits du monde dans les ports de France, on y consent, mais à condition qu'elle

“ Relating to the 50 sols per ton, to remain upon the ships trading coast-ways from port to port in either kingdom, *they will take it off, as we shall the five shillings per ton*—“ Excepté seulement au cas suivant: quand les navires Anglois transporteront des marchandises qu'ils auront chargées dans un port de France, & qu'ils les déchargeront dans un autre port de France; au quel cas, & en nul autre, les sujets de la Grande Bretagne payeront le droit abrogé & aboli dans le présent article; mais ils ne le payeront que suivant la proportion des marchandises qu'ils auront chargé, mais non suivant la capacité du vaisseau.”

“ In these words our Plenipotentiaries have given in this exception to the French at Utrecht; you find they give no distinct answer, but judge it referable to Commissioners.

submitted to her Majesty, if the main article of *amicissima gens* be such as may merit her approbation ;

ne commencera en France qu'au même jour qu'elle aura lieu en Angleterre.

“ As to Post Entries, &c.

“ Ceux qui ont donné au fait, leurs déclarations des marchandises qu'ils apportent, ne peuvent plus augmenter ni diminuer, sous prétexte d'omission ou autrement ; & la vérité ou la fausseté de la déclaration est jugée sur ce qui a été premièrement déclaré.

“ Voilà à quoi les marchands François sont assujettis ; on ne peut traiter en cela les Anglois autrement que les propres sujets de sa Majesté. Il est vrai qu'on doit favoriser l'innocence, mais il n'est pas moins vrai qu'il faut prévenir & empêcher les fraudes.

“ The Article for appointing Consuls.

“ On ne trouve dans aucun traité entre la France & l'Angleterre l'établissement des Consuls, qu'on propose, on croit qu'il seroit préjudiciable au commerce des deux nations, car ordinairement les Consuls sur les marchands se menagent les entreprises les plus profitables à l'exclusion de leurs compatriotes, nonobstant les défences qu'ils en ont. Et de plus les appointemens de ces personnes publiques sont pris sur le commerce, & c'est une charge réelle qu'il convient d'éviter ; ainsi au lieu de Consuls, on pourroit envoyer de part & d'autre à Paris & à Londres un Résident de commerce, pour y recevoir les griefs que chaque nation pourroit souffrir, afin de les réparer en les représentant à Messieurs les Ministres des deux Couronnes, & obtenant les ordres qui seroient convenables.

“ In relation to the tarif of the 18th September, 1664.

“ The inclosed Memorial gives an answer to this article, upon which likewise the particular regulation of the other articles will depend. Commissioners being to be appointed to that end,

“ Concerning tare on goods imported into France.

“ Les sujets du Roi, & tous les étrangers tenus de payer les droits d'entrée sur les marchandises, sans faire diminution du poids des emballages, des caisses, & des tonneaux, excepté les foieries, & les épiceries. On ne peut faire à cet égard, ni ordonnance nouvelle, ni accorder ce qu'on demande ; & les Anglois sur cela seront traités comme les François.

approbation; the others, your Lordship fees, such as the tobacco farmed, the hindering merchandise to be visited and confiscated by reason of deficiency in its goodness, measure, &c. which are against the laws and constitution of France, are answered in the negative, the rest yielded or referred to Commissioners, as the nature of the thing in circumstances, particularly of time, requires; but this is no explanation to your Lordship, who is perfectly master of the whole.

I will not insist upon my own astonishment, that we have no courier; *nil admirari*; I am a patient man, and will leave the Duke of Shrewsbury to chide you, which is the thing in the world he can do worst.

My Lord Treasurer's goodness to me, has left me too ample a commission as to expence, that I dare not make use of it without some directions and restrictions, or marks of its boundaries; I must have recourse to your friendship to inform me, if, upon a consideration that I am to stay here till the

"As to what concerns the Tobacco Farm, in France.

"Les Anglois auront la permission de vendre leur tabac au fermier, comme les Marchands François l'ont. On ne peut rien étranger à l'usage établi sur cela en France.

"Agreed. "Head-money and argent-du-chef to be reciprocally abolished."

renunciation

renunciation and entry, at the first of which I must assist by virtue of my powers, and at the second in honour to the nation and the Ambassador; if, I say, I must not have horses and a coach, otherwise than equipage hired by the month, which, in my conscience, I think will cost me but little more than that in which I now am; of this, I beg you to speak to Lord Treasurer, and give me a hint, that I may order those affairs accordingly, which in point of time will admit of no delay. I may swear to your Lordship, and you will take my word for it, that as to my own satisfaction, I would not give sixpence for the parading part; what I hope from my little services, though zealous endeavours, being some small establishment at home, in which I may bless the Queen's goodness, and cultivate the honour of Lord Bolingbroke's friendship, whose very faithful, &c.

M. PRIOR.

I send you a cargo which I received this morning from Count Monostrole *, and my Lord Duke sends to Lord Dartmouth a memorial from the Elector of Cologne; my

* The Bavarian Minister.

Lord Duke likewise recommends the Duke de St. Pierre's affair, and I should be unjust to Madame de Croissy and to Monsieur de Torcy, if I did not remind your Lordship of it; for it is with a very pleasing vanity, that I hear them say, *Harré fera tout pour Matthieu.*

I send you the best truffles in the world, pray let me by your means make my court with them. Adieu, my Lord,

I am, ever your's.

To Mr. Prior.

Whitehall, January 26, 1712-13.

THOUGH you complain, dear Matt, of not hearing from other parts, so often as the service seems to require, I doubt you will find that you hear from me too often, and I pray to Heaven the Duke of Shrewsbury do not pass the same censure upon me.

It is so necessary to finish, and it is so necessary not to suffer ourselves to be bantered at the close of the treaty out of an advantage, which we have obtained in the course of the negociation, that I never could hold
my

my pen still, as long as I had a thought in my mind upon this subject unopened.

You have seen by this, that if the article of Newfoundland admits of difficulty, it is only because of those which France keeps up with respect to trade.

A small mistake happened, and who can avoid some in a work of this length, extent, and perplexity? but, I believe you will agree with me, that it had better be owned by us than improved by the French.

All impositions laid since the year 1664, are not to be taken off, but all prohibitions of merchandise of France, says the paper put into your hands; and as to impositions, they are to be reduced to the same proportion as other nations pay.

I am glad to find the Duke and you so well pleased with each other, you are both in the right.

My friendship, dear Matt, shall never fail thee, employ it all, and continue to love

BOLINGBROKE.

To the Earl of Strafford.

Whitehall, February 3rd, 1712-13.

INDEED, my Lord, it is impossible to say enough in commendation of that good conduct which has overcome the obstinacy of the Dutch, and by prevailing on them to execute the barrier treaty, has buried at once all their disputes with the Queen. The Whigs, who railed all the while this matter was in suspense, and cried we were going to plunder the States, and to undermine the Protestant succession, by substituting a very bad treaty in lieu of a very good one, have already changed their tone, and affect to declare that they can have no objection to this treaty, since it is in effect the same with that which my Lord Townshend made. You see how readily this faction take every new pli which their leaders think fit to give them.

You are surely in the right, when you appear so eager to have every thing, as soon as possible, concluded. The conference between the French and the Dutch, mentioned in one of your Lordships' joint-letters, sufficiently shows what we are to expect from keeping the negociation any longer open.

The

The Duke of Shrewsbury is instructed to take up the matter warmly, and to speak a language that, I confess, I hope and believe, will determine the court of France, since no little advantage which they might gain by the opening the campaign, can make them amends for the risk they run of raising a new ferment in Europe, which must naturally happen, if the peace comes to be delayed by their fault.

I agree in the observation you make, as to what passes at Paris. We have got over the ill effect of too much forwardness, and now the game appears so safe and so easy to be played, I hope we shall not suffer by too great caution; I know of no measures taken for sheltering any body, neither does there appear to me any storm in the air to occasion them. You and I, my Lord, have seen the time when it was necessary to act, in the midst of danger, as if none had been near us; but those days are past, and the blessing will be so much the more dear to us, as we run through the more trouble and the more peril in the pursuit of it.

I have not yet had an opportunity of breaking to the Marquis de Monteleon, the
I request

request which Count Passionei makes ; in a day or two, I will not fail to press him, and am not without hopes of succeeding. He is a man of good abilities, and not half so much a Frenchman as he is reputed to be. I think I may venture to say, we have established already, through him, a confidence with the court of Madrid, and particularly with the Princeesse des Ursins. Your Lordship will, in a short time, see some proofs of this, which cannot fail to surprize you agreeably, and which will not be very welcome in France.

The King of Prussia does me a great deal of honour, and I will make my acknowledgments to his Majesty in the best manner I am able ; to your Lordship I may say, that I am equally at a loss to find how I came to be out of his good graces, or how I came to be restored to them again. As to Monsieur Grumkow *, whom I know extremely well, though I never saw him ; it is of very little moment what measures he pursues ; but I dare say, he wants nothing but the oppor-

* Prussian Resident at the Hague ; he was a General in the army, and, like the chief part of the foreign commanders, was extremely disappointed at the conclusion of the war.

tunity to return to those which he has been accustomed to so long.

What your Lordship said, both to the French and Dutch, as I find it in your letter of the 4th, was perfectly right; if the latter consent to refer the four species, as the Queen has done, and talk no more of Condé, France must chicanery no more with them, about the extent of the cessions which are to be made. The Queen will open the true state of the negociation to her Parliament, and to the world, and let mankind be judges at whose door the delay is to be fixed.

As to the business of Spain, I shall be ready amply to instruct your Lordship, and I hope so as to leave you very little trouble, in a very few days; in the mean time, the renunciations must be made in France, and the admission of the Spanish Ministers must be demanded at Utrecht*. Your Lordship will continue to insist in those terms, that the Catalans be restored to their ancient privileges, and we will carry the point.

Your Chaplain may be assured of my best services, it is enough that your Lordship is

* Hitherto, Spain had not been permitted to send Plenipotentiaries to the Congress at Utrecht.

his patron to make me his servant. I have spoke both for him and for Mr. Duret, and will repeat my applications.

To tell your Lordship the truth, I do not see the Queen inclined to give answer to the Elector of Cologne *. She has too much trouble about one of the brothers, to give herself more for the other; and besides, of all the Princes in Christendom, she thinks this man deserves the least good at her hands.

The proxies your Lordship sent being dated, and a prorogation † having happened to-day, I am obliged to send others to you, which I beg you to sign, but leave otherwise quite in blank for greater security. I will take care to insert no name but my own, since your Lordship is so good as to intend me that favour, or Lord Berkeley's. My dear Lord, good night, all happiness ever attend you. I am, with the utmost respect,

Your Lordship's, &c.

* The Electors of Bavaria and Cologne were brothers.

† For a fortnight.

From the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Paris, February 4th, 1713, N.S.

IN your Lordship's letter of the 7th January, N.S. I was promised that, this day was a fortnight, a messenger should be dispatched hither, I concluded that what Mr. Prior first, and I had since writ, upon the difficulty we found in the main article of commerce, as well as upon Newfoundland, would hasten that express; but none coming, I can no longer dissemble my impatience, but confess to you, I make a figure not very creditable to the ministry or myself, to remain in such a conjuncture thus long without knowing any thing from home, but what comes printed in the Post-Poy*. The necessity of bringing this treaty to a speedy decision one way or other, is as evident as the delay in giving orders upon it is wonderful; God send it a happy conclusion, and me well at Heathrop!

Your Lordship will see by Mr. Prior's letter to you, and by mine to Lord Dart-

* A newspaper so called.

mouth,

mouth, what this King now offers upon the main articles of commerce: if it be judged sufficient in England, and the expedient Mr. Prior sent a month since about Newfoundland, may be accepted; I hope her Majesty will give immediate directions to the Plenipotentiaries, to conclude at Utrecht; but if they are not satisfactory, let it be known without farther loss of time, for besides that delay is highly prejudicial in the present circumstance, it looks like irresolution, and is enough to lose a cause which might be otherwise gained; I shall only add, that if her Majesty insists upon the article of Newfoundland, in the strict terms of my last instructions, it is a matter they think of such consequence to them, that it will be requisite your Lordship and Lord Treasurer should write to Monsieur de Torcy, in a most positive and resolute style, and let him understand the peace cannot be had without it; as to the heads of commerce, I confess myself so ignorant, that when they descend to particulars, it is impossible for me to debate upon them, and the surest way, and speediest method would be to send somebody well versed in trade, to argue those points at Utrecht.

I have

I have sent to Lord Dartmouth the cases of the Duke of St. Pierre ; you are informed of his pretensions, and know the share the Colbert family take in this affair, so doubt not but what is proper and just her Majesty will do in this particular, in consideration of Madame de Croissi and Monsieur de Torcy, who omit no opportunity of showing their respect to her Majesty, and to whoever any way belongs to her. I am just got out of a short fit of the gout, which hindered my going to Versailles last week, I design to be there in two or three days ; by the peevishness of my letters you will suspect I am not quite recovered, but this being writ to Lord Bolingbroke as to a friend, and not as Secretary of State, I have opened my heart sincerely and without disguise, as I do when I assure you, I am,
My Lord, &c. SHREWSBURY.

From the Duke from Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Verfailles, February 7th, N.S. 1713.

THE messenger arrived at Paris on Saturday night, and on Sunday Mr. Prior came hither with the article, which he left in

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B b

Monsieur

Monfieur de Torcy's hands till I came, which was yesterday; Monfieur de Torcy having examined the article, and fhowed it to the King, told me laft night it was all agreed to, except thefe laft words, *omnino in contrarium*, &c. which he infifted would give us opportunity, in cafe the commiffioners came to no agreement, within the time prefcribed, to demand the exemption from thofe fpecies, which are excepted in the body of the article; and propofed either an explanatory claufe, that the power of the Commiffioners fhould be underftood to be confined to thofe fpecies only, or to have the claufe abfolutely left out; I could not think it proper to confent to either of thefe propofals, judging the article to have been maturely weighed and confidered, and not forefeeing what effect any alteration therein might produce, I chofe rather to give the miniftry the inclofed note*, which I conclude

* “ Pour lever la difficulté à l'égard des derniers paroles de l'article, intitulé, *in locum* 9 & 10 art. *Traëtatus de Commercio*. Comme fi, pofant le cas que les Commiffaires ne s'accordaffent point au bout du tems prefcrit, on pouvoit s'en prévaloir à demander des avantages nouveaux, j'entends que la Reine ne prétend pas, en vertu de cet article, de tirer d'autres avantages du tarif de 1664, que ceux qui feront accordé par la France aux Hollandois, par la paix prochaine, & que Monfieur le Duc

clude to be her Majesty's sense, and consonant to the tenour of the article; so that, taking this article to be settled, I have agreed to the other of Newfoundland, and have obtained, that the Isle of Sable is yielded to us, and makes our boundary on the side of Acadia.

I do not doubt but this express will arrive soon enough for the opening of the Parliament, and that her Majesty declaring in her speech, that she has finished with France, will facilitate and hasten our allies to make their peace. Monsieur de Torcy assures me, that orders are already given, and shall be repeated to their Plenipotentiaries, to show the allies, that by the fairest and openest proceedings, France is willing to come to a speedy conclusion.

I thought it of consequence not to lose a moment in dispatching this courier, which has not yet allowed me time to enter into the other particulars, some of which will occasion longer debates. I am, my Lord, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

Duc d'Aumont est en droit, s'il juge nécessaire de demander une telle explication à Londres.

"Fait à Versailles, ce 7me Février, 1713.

"SHREWSBURY."

B b 2

From

From the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Verfailles, February 7th, 1713, N.S.

COMMERCE is a thing I understand so little, that I was much alarmed when Monsieur de Torcy proposed leaving out the last words of the article your Lordships sent over. This King's Council suspected we designed by that last clause, to obtain an exemption of duty upon those very species excepted in the body of the article; I, concluding no such thing was intended, chose rather to sign the papers I have sent inclosed, than to alter or leave out one word of the articles. I hope I have acted according to her Majesty's intention, and that all disputes concerning our interests are now settled, which if I find so understood in England at the return of the next courier, it will be time I should demand the renunciation these Princes are to make to the crown of Spain, upon which, I hope her Majesty will send her orders.

As to the departure of the Chevalier, Monsieur de Torcy told me, the King had thought on an expedient, viz. to send him

to Nancy ; I made no reply, not knowing whether that would be construed in England sending him out of France.

The Duke of Berwick*, just returned triumphant from Spain, was this morning in the apartments ; he desired Monsieur de Torcy to enquire of me, whether his visit would be acceptable, if he came to see me at Paris. I answered, I had no difficulty to pay the Duke of Berwick all respect due to him in a third place, but hoped he would not give himself the trouble of visiting me, because I could not return it, and should be very sorry to be forced to do an uncivil thing to a person of his quality and merit. A little while after, Monsieur de Torcy brought him to make me a compliment in the King's bed-chamber, and being invited to dine at the Duke de Noailles, where he dined also, all passed civilly between us. I desire your Lordship will inform her Majesty and Lord Treasurer of this, and if I have done too much or too little, set me right for the

* Natural son of King James II, by Arabella Churchill, sister of the Duke of Marlborough, created, 1687, Duke of Berwick by his father ; he was Grandee of Spain, Knight of the Golden Fleece, and in 1734, was killed at the siege of Philippsburg, being at that time Generalissimo of the French forces.

future. Several English gentlemen of the St. Germain's Court, have asked to visit me, but I have let them understand I desired to be excused; and not having seen my own aunt, others would be in the wrong if they took it ill. I am, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, February 4th, 1712-13.

I WAS not at all surpris'd at the uneasiness which you expressed in your letter of the 4th, and I flatter myself your Grace remembers so well on what foot you left us, that you do not blame me, if the messenger was not dispatched on the day I fixed.

I acquainted the Queen with what your Grace mentions of your conduct towards the Duke of Berwick, and such of the St. Germain's Court as have asked to visit you, and am commanded to say, that she thinks your Grace has done neither too much nor too little.

Though I have not time at present to apprize your Grace of all the particulars, yet
I cannot

I cannot omit acquainting you, that our negotiations with the Court of Spain succeed beyond our expectations, and that Mr. Gilligan deserves to have his statue erected. I hope in few days to have finished the project of the Spanish treaty with the Marquis de Monteleon, who proves more than we were made to expect. I cannot say the same of the Duc d'Aumont. He has about him several people who know nothing of our affairs. He knows less, and both they and he fancy they know even more than we who are on the spot: this makes me apprehend that the accounts which he gives of the state of things may be often mistaken, and therefore I judged it necessary to give your Grace this hint. He receives penny-post letters and intelligence from refugees, and believes them all. You will laugh when I tell you, that he had taken it the other day into his head, that the reason for proroguing the Parliament was because the Queen durst not stir abroad, lest she should be assassinated!

I am, &c.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, Feb. 4th, 1712-13.

YOUR Grace's letters of the 4th were followed so quickly by those of the 7th, that I had hardly time to take part in the uneasiness which your Grace expresses in the former.

The Queen, my Lord, is extremely pleased to find the article of commerce settled, and by that, all her material differences with France adjusted. We cannot see that there was the least ground for the apprehension which the French Ministers pretended to be in, that by those words, *omnino in contrarium*, &c. we should have an opportunity, in case the Commissioners came to no agreement, to demand an exemption of those species which are excepted in the body of the article. The Queen has no design but what your Grace lays down in the explanatory paper which you gave to the Ministers of France, and indeed the words which immediately precede those objected to by the French, show plainly that her Majesty claims the benefit of the tariff of 1664 no otherwise than as

it

it shall be granted to the subjects of any other, the most favoured nation.

It is certainly now time that your Grace should demand the renunciations which the Princes of the House of Bourbon are to make of the crown of Spain, and I suppose the Earl of Dartmouth sends you her Majesty's orders which were yesterday given in council, to that purpose. I write likewise by this post to the Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht, that their Lordships are now to demand the admission of the Spanish Ministers into the Congress, to which overture there will, without doubt, be no opposition from any quarter.

Thus, my Lord, every thing tends to a conclusion, and the Queen is glad to hear the orders are already given to the French Plenipotentiaries, to show the allies, that, by the fairest and openest proceedings, France is willing to come to a speedy end of the treaty; but I am commanded at the same time to say to your Grace, that her Majesty wishes the late behaviour of the French Ministers at Utrecht had been influenced by such a principle.

I inclose an extract of a letter from the
Queen's

Queen's Plenipotentiaries, by which you will see, my Lord, in what manner the Ministers of France thought fit to treat those of the States-General, in the first conference they had with them, after the dispute about Monsieur de Rechteren's affair had been accommodated, and the Dutch had given the satisfaction required. The Queen would have your Grace take notice of this to Monsieur de Torcy, as a matter which infinitely surprised and concerned her Majesty, and upon this occasion put the Minister again in mind of the rule which her Majesty laid down so long ago, and from which she neither has nor will depart. Since the Dutch treat, since they desire in earnest to conclude, since they will drop the contests about Condé and about the four species, the Queen cannot abandon, nor sign her treaty without them; should the States stand off, on account of the two last mentioned points, they would be in the wrong, and the Queen would wait no longer for them; but if they refused to sign till France yields the Châtellenies promised, in such manner, and according to such limits, as France has possessed them, then they are in the right, and the Queen will
wait

wait for them, espouse their cause, and stand and fall with them.

The Ministers of France having thought fit to disown the proposition which the Queen believed they would have stood to, relating to the Elector of Bavaria, her Majesty does not see how she can farther interest herself in that affair; her intention therefore at present is, to leave the parties concerned to wrangle upon the several expedients that are started. It is not to be supposed that a little more or a little less to this Prince will occasion the continuance of the war; they will, among themselves, fall upon something or other at last; the Queen will impose no plan upon either party. Perhaps, by the next courier I may have some overture to insinuate to your Grace, which will put the generosity of France to a trial; for if the King expects so much from the Empire in favour of his ally, it will become natural for the Empire to expect a little from his Majesty. The weakness remaining in the Queen's feet, after a pretty severe fit of the gout, has been the principal motive for proroguing the Parliament to the 17th instant; the
Queen

Queen will then open a full and true state of the treaty to the world: a little candour, a little facility, on the part of France to the allies, will procure such resolutions here as must determine all of them to conclude.

If your Grace cannot make men reasonable, they are very far gone in folly; my spirit is, therefore, easy; and I persuade myself beforehand, that you will procure such orders to be sent to the French Ministers at Utrecht, as may enable those of her Majesty to press the allies, and may make it fit for them to declare that the Queen is ready to sign, and she will stay no longer for any one. I am, &c.

BOLINGBROKE,

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Verfailles, February 7th, 1713.

I NEED not enter into the particulars of your Lordship's letter of the 19th, or say any thing more of the article and explanation of it sent from hence by Philips on Saturday, but shall proceed to tell you, that the Latin article which you sent us by Barton,

ton, who arrived here some hours after Philips's departure, is agreed to, and the Isle de Sable yielded to us as the boundary of Acadia. What my Lord Duke writes to you, explains Monsieur de Torcy's apprehension of what we might pretend in virtue of the last clause, in case the Commissioners should come to no agreement in the time prescribed, the remedies he proposed to obviate this difficulty, and the assurance which my Lord Duke has given the Ministry of the sense in which the article is to be understood. I own to you, my Lord, that the thing had been so bandied about, that it grew confused, and that I think, by explaining our meaning on both sides, we began to have our intentions suspected; but our apprehensions that the French were bringing us to a new principle, and their fear that we desired more than I am of opinion we did design, are cured by the article as you sent it, and I took it, as to what nothing could be added, and from what nothing should be diminished; so that, once more thanking your Lordship for it, and hoping you will approve of what has been done upon it, I congratulate

late your having finished all that we had to decide with this nation.

As I had a very fair opportunity, upon our own affair thus finished, to enter with Monfieur de Torcy upon the general plan of peace, I led him into the sense of your letter, and am glad to tell you, that he assures me their Plenipotentiaries have already, and shall have, repeated orders to make such proposals to every one of the allies, as shall show the sincere and earnest desire that France has to come to a speedy conclusion, and keep our allies in the wrong, in case they are ill enough advised to delay any longer: the same doctrine my Lord Duke of Shrewsbury has with more efficacy, as with much greater ability, inculcated so well, that I do not doubt but you will have the good effects of it from Utrecht.

I will detain your Lordship no longer from what my Lord Duke writes to you, than to assure you that I am, &c.

M. PRIOR.

To Mr. Prior.

DEAR MATT,

Whitehall, February 4th, 1712-13.

HAVING writ largely both in my private and public dispatch to the Duke of Shrewsbury, I shall give you by this courier very little trouble. We are at an end I think of our disputes with France relating to our own interests, I am sure we are ready to conclude with Spain, so that the French have it now in their power, as soon as they please, to finish the great work; in order to this they must put on another character than they took in their conference with the Dutch Ministers at Utrecht. If as fast as we can make the allies yield, these Gentlemen rise in their demands, there will be no end. I know that the States will agree to refer the consideration of the four species, as the Queen has done; they must, and will, drop the demand of Condé; in this case therefore we will not, we ought not, to sign without them; they have been in the wrong hitherto, but France may, by chicaning about the dependencies of the Châtellanies to be yielded, put them in the right.

The Queen is not yet able to walk, though, God be praised! she is perfectly recovered of her indisposition which alarmed us last week; and therefore chiefly the Parliament is again prorogued to the seventeenth; but another consideration was, that since the allies do in earnest treat, and are pressing to conclude, her Majesty was desirous to see before she spoke to the two houses, in what manner the French would proceed; for she is determined to open the true state of the negociations, and to let the world know where the blame of delay is to be imputed. I hope our friend, Monsieur de Torcy, will prevail on his Court to preserve to the end that candour, that spirit of facility, that *bonne foi*, with which they began.

Adieu, &c.

BOLINGBROKE.

From Mr. Prior *.

MY LORD,

Paris, February 12th, 1713.

I WILL no way doubt but that the messenger whom we dispatched hence the

* Received by Sir Thomas Hanmer.

seventh, has freed you from all the apprehensions which you were under when you writ to me on the 22d of January ; and as I told you by that messenger, so I repeat to you, that I have put every word of your doctrine into practice, in relation to France, justifying itself to the world in its real desire of a speedy and equitable peace, and putting the allies in the wrong (or indeed keeping them so) in case they stand out any longer ; I find Monsieur de Torcy had already sent such orders to Utrecht ; that our Plenipotentiaries write the French are more easy as to the garrisoning those towns in which the Elector of Bavaria is concerned. Monsieur de Torcy has said, but desired it should not appear as from him in writing, that it is understood that Prince's property in those places, is no longer to be reserved to him, than till he shall be put into possession of his dominions in Germany, the Upper Palatinate excepted, and of the kingdom of Sardinia ; he consents that Nieuport should have an English garrison; the town of Namur a Dutch, the citadel a Bavarian garrison, in Charleroy a Dutch, and in Luxembourg a Bavarian : that the execution of the treaty made between the King of the Romans

and the Electrice, in 1704, should be required by the Elector's Ministers, or by what other canal should be judged proper; that the Queen would be pleased to assist him, in that or any other just demand he may make, always understanding, as I make Monsieur de Torcy always understand, that her Majesty is under no other obligation but that of her own generosity, and engaged no farther than as is specified in the proposal concerning Tournay, as I brought it over to England. We shall find no great difficulty as to the garrifoning Bonne and Liege; the Elector of Cologne and his Chapter, as he is Bishop of Liege, disagreeing, will make the garrifoning the town of Liege easy enough for the other parties to appoint; that of Bonne, if Imperial troops or those of the circle, will make no great difference; and Huy will be allowed to be garrifoned by Holland troops, as its neighbourhood to Maestricht will very well justify.

I am very apprehensive we shall not get the villages in dispute for Savoy, though the Duke of Shrewsbury has offered the equivalent, Monsieur de Torcy still persisting that his Royal Highness knows already that it is the ancient domain of France which he
asks,

asks, and has neither right or pretence to. He eternally refers me to what he has writ to your Lordship upon that subject, and to the answers which the French Plenipotentiaries have made at Utrecht on that head; but as we go to-morrow to Versailles, and shall speak to Monsieur de Torcy again of this and every other point yet undecided, upon which in a few days we shall send you an account, what I now write is referable to what we shall then confirm, which, to my utmost, I shall endeavour to have such as may correspond with the ideas you have given me.

As to the Dutch, I have told you many a day since that the four species would never be yielded as in the tarif of 1664, the yielding it being destructive to the manufactures, fishery, and colonies of this kingdom; and as to the fishery, as it will stand in relation to us about Newfoundland, the people of West France are very ill satisfied; and our good friends at Amsterdam you will find not much better satisfied than the French, though it does not directly tend to their disadvantage.

This is all I have at present to say to your

C c 2

Lordship,

Lordship in relation to the public; I leave it to Sir Thomas Hanmer*, who does me the favour to bring you this letter, to repeat to you, amongst the circumstances of private life, that I am, &c.

M. PRIOR.

Mademoiselle Noailles is to be married this day sev'nnight to old Châteaurenault's only son, and I am to be at the wedding; Duchefs Noailles is very much your servant; we all dined there last week very splendidly.

Pray send us the Queen's speech immediately. We have no tidings of your ship. Once more, my dear Lord, your's ever.

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Paris, February 13th, ten at night, 1713.

I HAD sealed the inclosed, and was going to Versailles with the Duke of Shrewsbury, when the courier, Haywood, in his journey

* Sir Thomas Hanmer had intended to go to Italy, but the critical situation of affairs induced the Ministry to solicit his speedy return, though he had not proceeded upon his journey farther than Paris.

to Spain, brought me your Lordship's of the 24th and 26th; pray believe that I can never hear often enough from you, and that your orders must always guide me. I am very apprehensive that the accident of the Duke d'Aumont's house being burnt, will be improved into a plot; and I know these people well enough to assure you, that many of them will be of the same opinion.

The article of commerce as agreed here, and returned for the approbation of what my Lord Duke declared upon it, has made all discourse upon that subject useless; however, in answer to your's of the 24th, I cannot but observe, that what is expressed in my memorial of the 7th of January, which they call *remise par le Sieur Prior*, was received from Monsieur de Torcy, and sent, not as conclusive, but as to be redressed, in order to be agreed, or as wholly to be rejected; and even there, prohibitions, *droits*, & *impôts*, the two latter words could be understood only as relative to *prohibitions*, and signifying *that all laws made in Great Britain for prohibiting the goods or merchandises of France, shall be repealed*, which are the words of the article from Utrecht, this being con-

sonant to the basis upon which our commerce was to be settled, and this explication answering to the last words of my former proposition, *nous tâcherons d'ajuster*, &c. which I sent your Lordship inclosed in my letter from hence of the 29th December last.

Now again, I must own that, in civil and general terms, I thought I was to make them as easy as I could consent to the *amicissima gens*, to which you see they have given another colour and turn, having endeavoured, as you see, to embroil and entangle this business, both at Utrecht and London, while they let it sleep without saying one word of it here; nay, not even when, or since, they received the Latin article, which, I thank God! has not received an iota of alteration; but sure, if they had understood that I was concerting with them so widely from what that article announces, they would have said so, not only to me, but to the Duke of Shrewsbury; and their silence upon that head is a fairer argument than any I can frame by troubling you longer upon it. I will therefore leave it, when I have confessed the expression is such as is capable to be wrested, if disjoined, from the whole
tenour

tenour of the negociation; but the offering to wrest it, and sending it to Utrecht as a thing done, was by no means fair or generous.

Upon another occasion, I have something of the like nature: it has been urged at London, that the cession of Tournay was only made reciprocally, the Queen being obliged to procure for the Elector of Bavaria the proprietary possession of the four places to which he pretended, or to get him Limburg instead of Luxembourg; whereas, the memorial with which I charged myself, when I waited on you in England, has a clause in it that particularly specifies her Majesty to be under no obligation, but that of her own generosity; and the matter of Limburg was not so much as proposed to me, nor had I heard of it, otherwise than in the general plan of peace, proposed to be separated from the Pays-Bas and given to the Elector Palatine, as an equivalent for the Upper Palatinate. *Mem. by Gaultier, in Nov. 1711.*

I have troubled you, my dear Lord, too long; I shall be constantly upon my guard, and more so than I have been, with these

people, being very glad that we have finished with them, as to our own affairs, and impatient to hear what her Majesty says to her Parliament on that head.

Give me leave, once more, to thank you for the kindness of your last letter, and to beg the continuance of your friendship. I am ever, most truly, your Lordship's, &c.

M. PRIOR.

Sir Thomas Hanmer comes to you in very good humour, and very much satisfied as well with what he has seen done on our part*, as with the civilities which he has received from this nation, in which, you know, they never fail. Your little relation, who is as it were one of this nation, is very well. The Duke of Shrewsbury will do what he can in Monsieur Calandrini's business, and so, you may rest assured, will I, in any thing relating to Lord Bolingbroke.

* Swift relates, to the contrary, that he was much out of humour with things, full of doubts and fears, and thought the peace kept off too long. There was some intention at this time of making him Secretary of State, in the room of Lord Dartmouth.

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Paris, February 16th, 1713.

THE Duke of Shrewsbury doing me the honour to let me always assist at the writing his letter, saves your Lordship some pains, and wholly secures my conduct: I cannot however, forbear to explain to your Lordship, what his Grace, with equal justice as generosity, mentions in his: that Monsieur de Torcy avowed, that the proposition which was in question, was not only his, but a part of his proposition, sent, as all I did upon that head, not as consented to by me here, but to be examined by you in England, and upon which I desired your directions.

Though I am confident the two last couriers have cleared that whole point as we desire, and though I am absolutely assured, that your friendship to me will take away every thing that may tend to my disadvantage, yet I cannot hold my pen still, no more than your Lordship could, upon that subject; and though I eat, drink, and talk like other mortal men—*spem simulat vultu premit alto corde dolorem*; and I shall not be satisfied with myself,

myself, or the world, till I know from you that I am not blamed, I could write a quire upon the subject; but all, I hope, is well, and I long for the Queen's speech to tell us so.

I am glad from my heart, that there is an equivalent proposed, which I hope may satisfy the Duke of Savoy, because, I know you have been a good deal solicited upon that point. We are this moment writing upon that subject to Utrecht.

I have writ some time since to you concerning entries, assistance at the renunciations, coach and equipage, in all which I rely upon that inviolable friendship on my side, with which you honour your's, ever,

MATT.

To-morrow is the Queen's birth-day, the Duke of Shrewsbury's goods are not come, so we can have no ball, but for eating and drinking, very much.

From

From the Duke of Shrewsbury.*

MY LORD,

Paris, Monday, February 13th, 1713. N.S.

I HERE inclosed send you the examinations of the Azzurinis, father and son†, as
I received

* Indorsed private ; received 20th, by Sir Thomas Hanmer,

† These two men appear to have been of that numerous tribe of daring adventurers, with which most countries in time of war abound. Under the mild government of Great Britain they were not so liable to an early detection ; but in France, where, in general, every man's actions were known to the officers of the police, their situation was more dangerous, and their career very short. The following are the accounts transmitted by the Duke of Shrewsbury ; the first relates to the son who was in the Bastille, the other to the father, who was in prison at Longon :

“ Extrait des Interrogatoires du Chevalier Azzurini.

“ Aussitôt que le Chevalier Azzurini eut été conduit à la Bastille, Monsieur le Marquis de Torcy instruisit Monsieur Dargenson par un mémoire particulier, qui n'étoit que pour lui, de tout ce qui avoit rapport à ce prisonnier, de sa conduite dans son voyage en Hollande, de ce qu'il avoit avancé aux Ministres des ennemis, & des promesses qu'il leur avoit faites, afin qu'il pût l'interroger sur tous les points de ce mémoire.

“ Le premier interrogatoire qu'il a subi, est du 7me Septembre, 1712. Il lui a rendu compte historiquement de sa naissance, de son éducation, de quelques voyages qu'il avoit faits en Italie, & de celui qu'il fit à Paris, où il séjourna un an. Il paroît qu'il en partit en 1708, pour retourner en son pays.

“ Il suppose que son père ait reçu, peu de tems après, des instructions pour passer en Angleterre, pour les affaires du Roi, & il marque qu'il partit avec lui pour s'y rendre ; que son père y étant arrivé, avoit donné huit ou dix livres au secrétaire Espagnol du Comte Gallas, pour tirer de lui des secrets de son maître, pour les envoyer à Monsieur le Marquis de Torcy ; qu'il avoit aussi fait de grands présens à Monsieur de Netterville,

I received them from Monsieur de Torcy.
Your Lordship will observe they are so short
of

ville, qu'il dit être le confident de Monsieur le Comte d'Oxford, au Chevalier Penn, & au Sieur Plonket; mais qu'il ne savoit pas en quoi consistoit ces présens: que Monsieur de Netterville instruisoit son père de tout, le connoissant pour être chargé d'ordres du Roi; que le Chevalier Giraldi (1) qu'on leur avoit dit être partisan de France, leur en avoit paru très éloigné: qu'ils avoient découvert par le secrétaire du Comte Gallas, qu'il étoit pensionnaire de l'Archiduc, & qu'il étoit attaché aux Whigs; que Monsieur Grimani avoit le cœur François; que pour brouiller le Chevalier Giraldi avec le Comte Gallas, ils avoient insinué au dernier, par le Sieur Primoli, son premier secrétaire, qu'il trahissoit son parti, que le Chevalier Azzurini, père, faisoit de fausses confidences au Comte Gallas pour le brouiller avec le gouvernement d'Angleterre.

“ Le Chevalier Azzurini dit que jusqu'alors il s'étoit insinué chez Madame la Duchesse de Shrewsbury, Mademoiselle Malloffe, Miladi Waldegrave, Madame la Duchesse de Buckingham, Miladi Butler, Miladi Hogletorit, & chez plusieurs autres dames de qualité, pour rapporter à son père ce qu'on y disoit; qu'il avoit de grandes espérances d'épouser une fille de my Lord Suffex; qu'il avoit attendu une occasion favorable de passer en Angleterre, pour faire cette alliance, & qu'il en voyoit les espérances perdues par sa prison; qu'il sût par le Sieur Primoli qu'un faux Thoris, qui demeure dans le Parc de St. James, & dont la maison est environnée d'une grille, avoit dit au Comte Gallas, que son père & lui étoient envoyés par la cour de France, & que ce Comte s'en étoit expliqué avec my Lord d'Oxford; que le Comte Gallas lui ayant proposé de lui révéler les secrets de son père, il feignit d'y consentir, lui remit un chiffre Italien qu'il avoit encore, mais que son dessein étoit de ne dire que ce qui conviendrait aux intérêts du Roi; qu'après un séjour de neuf mois en Angleterre ils avoient été obligés d'en sortir par ordre de la cour, & qu'étant repassé en France, ils y avoient séjourné, jusqu'à ce que son père partant pour l'Italie, il se rendit de son côté en Hollande, & qu'ils reçurent à Paris environ pour 60000*l.* de lettres de change d'Italie; que le Comte Gallas lui fit présent au mois

(1) Envoy from Tuscany.

of those informations which were sent from Holland, that I think it were to be wished either

de 7bre, 1711, pendant qu'il étoit encore à Londres, d'une bague qu'il vendit *peu de jours après* pour 3400ls."

" *Deuxième Interrogatoire, du 20me Septembre, 1712.*

" Le Sieur Azzurini, dit dans son second interrogatoire, que son père & lui ne reçurent à Paris que 1400ls. en lettres de changes venues d'Italie, & qu'il avoit reçu en son particulier 3400ls. provenant du prix de sa bague qu'il avoit laissée en Angleterre; & que son père avoit vendu à Paris ce qui lui reste de sa vaisselle d'argent, & de quelques pierreries qu'il avoit vendues à Londres, & dont il avoit tiré 1500 guinées. Il a répondu aux questions qui lui ont été faites sur son voyage d'Hollande, sur la conduite qu'il a tenue, qu'étant sujet d'un Prince neutre, il avoit cru être libre; que Monsieur le Marquis de Torcy lui ayant dit de se mettre en état d'aller à Utrecht, pour y faire connoître le Sieur Plonket, il avoit ensuite changé de dessein, & qu'il avoit été si chagrin de ce qu'on ne vouloit pas l'employer, & qu'on lui préféra l'Abbé Gaultier, qu'il se proposa de chercher fortune; qu'il se rendit à Utrecht à dessein de passer ensuite en Angleterre, comme il l'avoit écrit aux my Lords d'Oxford, de Buckingham, de Bolingbroke, & au Chevalier Penn; qu'à son arrivée à Utrecht il n'avoit vu que Monsieur Mesnager, qui le reçut froidement, & qu'ayant été voir le Sieur Primoli, connu pour un Emissaire de l'Archiduc, il lui proposa de servir ce Prince, & de quitter le service du Roi, dont il paroïssoit mécontent; qu'il lui promit de grands avantages, entre autres un caractère, & des pensions sur le Mantouan, lui représentant que ce Prince, maître comme il l'étoit de l'Italie, pouvoit faire beaucoup de bien ou de mal à sa famille; que même il pourroit lui donner quelques à Naples ou à Milan; qu'il consentit à aller avec lui à la Haye, & que le Sieur Primoli l'introduisit auprès du Comte Sinzen-dorf, qui le reçut favorablement, & lui rendit sa visite; qu'il dîna ce jour-là chez ce Ministre, & que le Pensionnaire Heinfius y étant venu, ils eurent tous trois une conférence, & que le Comte lui ayant répété ce que Monsieur Primoli lui avoit dit, des avantages qu'il pouvoit trouver dans le service de l'Archiduc, & de ce qu'il y avoit à craindre dans le parti opposé, le Pensionnaire Heinfius lui fit aussi les mêmes représentations; qu'il ne répondit rien de positif à ces propositions,

&

either copies of those papers, or at least an extract of some of the principal heads, might be

& qu'il demanda que son père n'en eut point de connoissance, parce qu'il étoit attaché à la France; qu'il demeur cinq ou six jours encore à la Haye, sans conférer adavantage avec ces Ministres; qu'il revint à Utrecht, où il vit tous les Ministres étrangers, excepté ceux du Roi, & qu'étant retourné à la Haye, il eut une seconde conférence avec les mêmes personnes; que l'on répéta ce qui avoit été dit dans la première; qu'il demeura à la Haye huit ou dix jours, & que manquant d'argent, le Sieur Primoli lui prêta 150 florins, & le Sieur de la Martiniere, François réfugié, 23 louis-d'ors; qu'étant retourné à Utrecht, il vit Monsieur Mesnager, qui le reçut favorablement, & qui le présenta à Monsieur le Marquis d'Huxelles, & à Monsieur l'Abbé de Polignac, qui le firent manger à leur table, & lui proposèrent d'aller servir le Roi en Angleterre, ce qu'il accepta; qu'il consentit de venir recevoir ses instructions à la Cour, & qu'ils lui donnèrent 21 pistoles pour l'aider à faire son voyage."

"Troisième Interrogatoire, du 21me Septembre, 1712.

"Il rend compte de son voyage, & il assure qu'il n'avoit point reçu de lettres depuis son arrivée à Paris; qu'il n'avoit point donné d'avis de son départ au Comte Sinzendorf, au Pensionnaire Heinsius, ni au Sieur Primoli; que même pour faire voir au Comte de Sinzendorf qu'il n'avoit pas besoin d'argent, il lui montra plusieurs fausses lettres de change; qu'il avoit écrit d'Utrecht au Comte Gallas, & qu'il avoit des relations intimes avec deux Secrétaires de Monsieur le Marquis de Torcy, qui lui dévoient le secret de la France, & qu'il feroit en état de l'en instruire; qu'il n'avoit eu en vue par cette supposition que de tromper ce Ministre, & de se rendre plus recommandable, ces intelligences étant absolument imaginaires; qu'il n'avoit pas parlé sur cela à Monsieur Sinzendorf, ni à Monsieur le Pensionnaire; que le Comte Gallas lui avoit répondu en termes généraux; qu'il ne s'étoit point expliqué avec lui sur la récompense qu'il pouvoit attendre, mais qu'étant encore en Angleterre, il lui promit une Baronie dans le Mantouan, qu'il croit être celle de St. Archange, confisqué sur (1) de Bague; qu'il informat le Comte Gallas du dessein

(1) Two words illegible.

be sent hither, upon which they would examine him more properly upon those points, than

qu'on avoit de l'envoyer de Paris à Utrecht, & du changement arrivé à cet égard. Il s'est trouvé dans ses hardes plusieurs paquets étiquetés, prise de la poudre du Comte de Palma, & il a dit que cette poudre étoit purgative ; il y avoit aussi quelques autres poudres dont on n'avoit pas encore fait l'essai, entr'autres de la poudre de la sympathie. Il a assuré qu'il n'avoit donné aucun mémoire au Comte Sinzendorf, ni au Ministre d'Hollande, qu'il avoit seulement écrit d'Utrecht au Premier pour le remercier des assurances de son estime, & pour lui marquer qu'il seroit content de lui, s'il l'engageoit au service de l'Archiduc ; qu'il avoit résisté aux instances que le Comte de Gallas lui avoit faites pour le faire déclarer publiquement en Italie & à Rome pour l'Archiduc ; qu'il n'avoit parlé qu'en général au Comte Sinzendorf, au Pensionnaire sur l'état des affaires du Roi, leur disant qu'elles se ruinoient par la désunion entre les Ministres de sa Majesté, & qu'en cela il avoit en vue son intérêt personnel ; que les deux conférences qu'il avoit eues avec eux, n'avoient duré qu'un quart d'heure chacune. Enfin que le chagrin de n'être pas employé, & de ne recevoir ni récompense ni pension, quoique son père lui eût transporté le droit de toutes les récompenses qu'il croyoit avoir méritées, l'avoit déterminé à la démarche qu'il avoit faite ; que dans le tems de ces deux conférences, il ne savoit pas qu'on dût lui proposer de retourner en Angleterre pour le service du Roi, & qu'il n'en a rien confié à ces Ministres depuis les ouvertures qui lui ont été faites par les Plénipotentiaires de sa Majesté."

" Extrait de ce qui a été écrit par rapport au Sieur Azzurini & des lettres qu'il a écrites de sa Personne.

" Février 5me, 1713.

" LE Comte Azzurini partit de Paris au mois de Mai, 1712, pour retourner en Italie, & après avoir passé quelque tems à Faenze, sa patrie, il se rendit à Rome, au mois d'Août de la même année. Comme il n'avoit aucune affaire en cette ville, & que sa dépense y devoit excéder certainement ses revenus, on fut surpris qu'il parût s'y arrêter pour long-tems, & l'on en conçut dès alors du soupçon. La trahison de son fils fut su à Rome au commencement de Septembre, & cette nouvelle rendant le père entièrement suspect, on examina avec soin sa conduite ; on fut qu'il se plaignoit vivement à ses amis, de ce
que

than they have yet done, and particularly to any thing that should be suggested to them.

Having

que ses services n'avoient pas été assez récompensés en France, & qu'il tenoit des discours qui pouvoient faire croire qu'il avoit pris quelques engagements secrets avec les ennemis du Roi, & l'on résolut de s'assurer de sa personne, tant pour éclaircir des soupçons aussi bien fondés, que pour découvrir plus facilement par son moyen les intrigues de son fils, dont il étoit vraisemblablement complice.

“ On lui proposa de se rendre à Longon, pour visiter cette place, & pour rendre compte de l'état où elle se trouvoit, mais il parut se défier de l'intention des ministres, en qui il devoit avoir une confiance aveugle, si sa conscience ne lui eût rien reproché, & il n'accepta pas d'abord cette commission. Il partit de Rome au mois d'Octobre, & il paroît par une lettre qu'il a écrite de sa prison à un nommé Albanese, son ami intime, qu'ils avoient concerté ensemble, s'il iroit ou non à Longon, & quoiqu'il se fut enfin déterminé à s'y rendre, il craignoit toujours d'y être arrêté.

“ Lorsque l'on eût appris à Rome que sa personne étoit en sûreté, on s'adressa au Pape pour se saisir aussi de ses papiers; sa Sainteté donna ses ordres pour cet effet; mais soit qu'Azurini les eût détournés avant que de sortir de Rome, soit que ses amis avertis des intentions du Pape, eussent prévenu les officiers de sa Sainteté, en enlevant tout ce qui pouvoit être de conséquence, on ne trouva que des lettres peu importantes. On a su depuis par une voie sûre que le nommé Albanese avoit dit, *que les papiers d'Azurini étoient déjà chez le Marquis de Prié, lorsqu'on a voulu s'en saisir, qu'il avoit été averti par un particulier des ordres que le Pape avoit donnés, & qu'ils n'étoient pas assez imprudens pour se laisser ainsi surprendre.* On a retenu toutes les lettres qu'il a écrites de sa prison à plusieurs de ses amis. On y voit par tout un esprit inquiet au désespoir de s'être laissé prendre, & persuadé qu'il ne recouvreroit pas sa liberté, s'il n'employoit des voies extraordinaires, comme de corrompre ceux qui le gardoient, ou d'engager le Pape à le redemander comme son sujet. Il est vrai qu'il marque à son fils, dont il ignoroit la prison, & à plusieurs de ses amis, d'agir auprès des Ministres de France & d'Espagne pour obtenir sa liberté, mais il paroît se méfier de la bonté de sa cause, & compter peu sur leurs représentations, & il croit qu'ils feront mieux de s'adresser au Pape son Souverain, ou de tâcher de le sauver par adresse. Il ne respire que vengeance, aussitôt qu'il sera en liberté,

Having discoursed with Monsieur de Torcy, upon all the heads mentioned in your letter of the 20th, which relate to the interests of the several allies, he has promised to

liberté, & il recommande à son fils de profiter de son malheur & de ne se plus fier à personne.

“ Il a cru avoir gagné un valet-de-chambre du Gouverneur de Longon, & il lui a confié des lettres, croyant qu’elles seroient tenues plus certainement par son moyen. Il y en a deux qui paroissent marquer évidemment ses relations avec les ennemis. Elles sont adressées au *Comte Polydor*, sous une enveloppe pour une personne qui devoit les lui faire tenir. Azzurini lui marque que s’il n’avoit pas été arrêté à Longon, il l’auroit été voir en retournant à Faenze, pour lui offrir ses services en faveur du *Seigneur Alexandre*. Il le prie d’ordonner aux consuls qui sont sous ses ordres à Livourne & à Porto Feraio, de s’entendre pour envoyer à Longon une barque avec de bons rameurs, espérant que le valet-de-chambre la feroit approcher de l’endroit où il étoit, & qu’ils se sauvroient ensemble. Il paroît ne point douter que le *Comte Polidor* ne s’intéresse à son évasion. Il lui marque néan moins que lorsqu’il sera auprès de lui, il lui montrera que sa délivrance ne sera pas inutile, ayant de quoi payer ce service important, & il le supplie de faire donner une compagnie de cavalerie, au valet-de-chambre, qui lui paroissoit souhaiter d’être au service du *Seigneur Alexandre*. Il signe au bas de ces lettres Don Diego de Villamajor, au lieu d’Azzurini; il est clair que le nom du *Seigneur Alexandre*, ne peut désigner autre chose que l’Archiduc, & celui de *Comte Polidor* ne peut s’attribuer qu’à un de ses ministres, qui puisse faire donner une compagnie de cavalerie, & qui puisse commander aux consuls Allemands en Italie, & ce qui confirme cette conjecture, c’est qu’Azzurini dit au valet-de-chambre en lui remettant les deux lettres, qu’elles étoient adressées à celui qui tenoit la première main en Italie & à qui ce valet-de-chambre pouvoit souhaiter qu’il s’adressât, lui tenant ce discours parce qu’il le croyoit partisan caché de l’Archiduc. Ainsi l’on a lieu de croire que celui à qui Azzurini s’adresse sous le nom du *Comte Polidor*, ne peut être que le Marquis de Prie, ou le Duc d’Uçeda. Il a connu particulièrement ce dernier, lorsqu’il étoit attaché à Monsieur le Cardinal de Janson, & il a pu se faire connoître de l’autre par le moyen du nommé Albanese.”

tell me, on Wednesday, the utmost that can be done to accommodate those differences; so that, as yet, it is to no purpose to trouble you with a letter in form upon the subject. I am sorry to acquaint you that I find so little inclination in this Court to yield the Duke of Savoy the villages he demands, that whenever I have mentioned it, they will hardly bear the discourse. At last, I thought better to try the exchange your Lordship gave me power to offer, and even that is received in such a manner, that though I have writ and spoke all I can urge upon it, I have little hope of its being accepted; however, as yet, I have not a final answer.

I must not omit to acknowledge your Lordship's of the 22d January, O.S. and I hope the first votes of both Houses will be of such a nature, as to put you in better humour. I am this minute going to Versailles, to stay there till Wednesday, when the King removes to Marli. I am, my Lord, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

I just now hear the sad accident happened to the Duke d'Aumont, I write to him to offer him my house, till he can provide himself better.

From

From the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Paris, February 13th, 1713, N.S.

BY the courier going for Spain, I have received several packets from your Lordship, but being ready to take coach for Versailles, I have not time to enter into all the particulars. The chief is answered, I hope, by this Court's having agreed to the article of commerce, as you sent it over.

As to the fire at the Duke d'Aumont's house, I confess, I cannot suspect it to be done by malice, but rather by chance, and shall endeavour to represent it so here, not only as most creditable to our nation, but as, in my opinion, most profitable.

Mr. Prior has had a petition relating to the East India Company's ship, the same you have sent: if it were taken within the time of the suspension, our claim is just; if not, as I doubt our case will prove, we can pretend no right, and the best turn we can give, is to ask to buy it at a reasonable price, for which we have the precedent of Sir Thomas Hardy's prize*.

* A French East-Indiaman, the Griffin; the price 35,000l.

When I complained I had heard nothing,
I was very far from expecting it from you,
whose exactness deserves no reproach from,

My Lord, your Lordship's, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

From the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Paris, February 16th, 1713, N.S.

BY the return of the gentleman who brought to this Court an account of the Duke d'Aumont's house being burnt, I send you this letter to inform you, that I have taken all occasions to represent it as the effect of a mere accident, rather than of any previous malice; and I think the greatest, as well as the most considerable part of the people here, are inclined to believe it such: the friends of the family may be excused, if they endeavour to have it imputed to malice, the better to justify their asking the King to repair the loss.

In my last I told you I much doubted, if, in the Duke of Savoy's behalf, I should be able to gain the exchange proposed: this

Court continues so utterly averse to it, that I find the alternative cannot be obtained : but upon my insisting that the tops of the Alps ought to be the common boundary between France and Piémont, they have so far consented to the argument, as to offer to give the Duke of Savoy the extent of territory marked yellow in the map which you sent me, upon condition his Royal Highness will yield to them *la Vallée de Barcelonette, avec les douze communautés dont elle est composée*, alledging, they have equal or stronger reasons to desire the concession, for the securing their barrier, than the Duke of Savoy can pretend for the territory which he asks, and of this I have sent an account to Utrecht.

I was very glad to find there was no occasion of my mentioning to Monsieur de Torcy, the affair of the six French ships designed for the South Sea : he himself began to tell me, that the King was convinced that the arguments you had used to the Marquis de Monteleon, were so just, that he had already given orders for recalling of them ; being, as Monsieur de Torcy expressed it, resolved never to give the least suspicion of his intending, to his subjects,

any advantage, that could not be justified by the treaties he makes with her Majesty. I must do them justice in this proceeding, and wish they dealt as fairly with Mr. Prior; but I conclude all that matter is over. However, I am obliged to tell you that, in my hearing, Monsieur de Torcy acknowledged it was his proposition which they produce, and he will say so to your Lordship, or to any body else, if required.

The petition of the East India Company doth not specify the time of the ship's being taken, which will give the greatest difference imaginable to the manner of reclaiming it. Mr. Arbuthnot* is here, and will solicit the business, in which he shall have my best assistance. Mr. Prior, upon the like petition transmitted to him by the Earl of Dartmouth, and a letter from Mr. Welden, proprietor of the ship, has obtained of Monsieur de Pontchartrain orders, that that gentleman be well treated, and that the goods shall be secured in the King's magazines, till judgment be given in the cause, and of this he has wrote to Lord Dartmouth. I am, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

* Brother to Dr. Arbuthnot, the Queen's Physician.

From

From the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Paris, February the 22d, 1713, N.S.

I AM very glad to find by your letter of the 4th, that her Majesty is satisfied with the article of commerce, and the explanatory paper which I gave to the French Ministers upon it; and that her Majesty judges, that all the material differences between her and France, are now adjusted.

I received letters from the Lords at Utrecht, bearing almost the same date with that which you sent to me, inclosed in yours, and much in the same complaining style; upon which having spoke to Monsieur de Torcy, he told me, that he had already writ to their Plenipotentiaries in such a manner, as that he had reason to believe the next letters would show that their differences were nearer to an accommodation; and accordingly by these, since received, I found they were so; their last to me is of the 17th instant, in which they say, that the only difficulty in the treaty of commerce is concerning the addition proposed by Monsieur Mesnager of the words *nec fuerint*,

as in the inclosed paper *; upon which Monsieur de Torcy having spoke to the King, he has told me in a conference I had with him this evening, that it shall be adjusted at Utrecht as we desire to have it.

In the treaty of peace, they said, there still remained two difficulties; one is about the immoveable estates to be disposed of in the places which France is to yield up or restore; which we thought was adjusted by the paper sent by Mr. Prior, January 19th, and which you have likewise herein inclosed †: it cer-

* *The Fifth Article of Commerce, nec fuerint, runs thus:*

“Subditis utriusque Regiæ Majestatis, libertas sit & potestas, cum suis navibus, ut & mercibus rebusque iisdem impositis, quorum commercium aut asportatio legibus utriusque regni prohibita non sunt (here the French Ministers would add, nec fuerint) ad utriusque partis terras, &c. appellere.”

The reason they alledge is, that they find a like expression in their treaties with the Dutch, made at Nimeguen and Ryswick, and have a general order to keep as near as they can to those treaties.

† *Mémoire concerté avec Monsieur de Torcy, le 19me Janvier, 1713.*

“Les habitans dans la Baye de Hudson, sujets de sa Majesté la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, qui ont été dépossédés de leurs terres par ceux de la France, en tems de paix, seront entièrement & immédiatement après la ratification de ce traité, restitués & remis dans la possession de leurs dites terres; & tels propriétaires auront aussi une satisfaction juste & raisonnable sur toutes leurs pertes qu'ils ont souffertes, à regard de leur biens, meubles, & effets, lesquelles pertes seront réglées par le jugement des Commissaires qui doivent être nommés à cette fin, & obligés par serment de faire rendre justice aux intéressés.

tainly

tainly is so as to Hudson's Bay in particular: Monsieur de Torcy says, that as far as he knows, the whole affair stands at Utrecht in the manner as this inclosed paper * specifies: we are not sufficiently apprised here what effect it will have as to St. Christopher's, but

* “ Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Grande Bretagne avoient jusqu'à présent distingué les lieux cédés par le Roi à la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, les & lieux qu'ils appelloient restitués. Sous le nom de lieux restitués ils comprenoient la Baye & le Détroit d'Hudson, & l'île de Terre-neuve. Ils consentoient à laisser aux François établis dans les lieux cédés, la faculté de vendre leurs biens immeubles. Mais ils prétendoient que cette même liberté ne devoit pas leur être permise dans les lieux restitués, supposant que ces immeubles avoient été enlevés aux Anglois, & qu'ils devoient y rentrer de plein droit. Aujourd'hui Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Grande Bretagne ne font plus de distinction des lieux cédés & des lieux restitués, quoique la même expression demeure dans l'article 14. Ils laissent seulement aux sujets du Roi la faculté de sortir également des un & des autres, si bon leur semble, dans l'espace d'un an, avec tous leurs biens & meubles. Suivant les conditions dont on est demeuré d'accord, il doit être stipulé que les François établis dans l'Acadie, ou dans l'île de St. Christophe, auront la faculté d'en sortir, *de vendre*, ou d'emporter ailleurs, tous leurs biens meubles, si bon leur semble, & de vendre leurs biens immeubles. Qu'à l'égard des lieux qui seront restitués à la Baye & au Détroit d'Hudson, les Anglois rentreront en jouissance des immeubles dont ils auront été dépossédés, pourvu qu'ils justifient devant les Commissaires par des preuves valables, que ces biens auront effectivement appartenu à leurs pères, ou à eux-mêmes.

“ Quant à l'île de Terre-neuve, on est demeuré d'accord, que les François doivent avoir la faculté de vendre les maisons qu'ils auront à Plaisance, & les terres de frichées autour, parce que la Ville de Plaisance étoit bâtie par eux, jamais ces biens n'ont été possédés par les Anglois.

“ Le terme qui sera donné aux François pour vendre leurs effets, doit être de dix-huit mois, car autrement ils auroient peine à disposer de ce qui leur appartient dans un tems aussi court que celui d'un an.”

will

will not question but that you give plain directions on this head at Utrecht, both as to the disposal of goods moveable and immoveable, and the time in which it may be done.

The other difficulty is the dispute concerning the thirty leagues from Acadie, as the distance within which the French are not to fish; our Plenipotentiaries say *that they* (the French) *are content not to fish at all upon the coast; but are ordered not to admit that precise determination*; our claim upon this head was founded upon the assertion, that when Acadie was in the French hands, we were liable to the same restriction. Your Lordship, by looking upon the proposition * and the extract of

* *Reçu de Monsieur de Torcy, & renvoyé au my Lord Bolingbroke, 29th Décembre, 1712, N.S.*

“ Proposition concertée avec le Sieur Prior.

“ Que l'île de Cap-Breton demeurera au Roi, avec la liberté d'y faire fortifier. Que la province de l'Acadie, avec tous les droits & prérogatives, dont les François ont joui, sera cédée par sa Majesté à la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, avec l'île de Terre-neuve, & les îles adjacentes à cette île, bien entendu, que les François auront & conserveront la faculté de pêcher, & de sécher leur pêche sur les côtes de la dite île de Terre-neuve depuis le Cap de Bonavista en remontant par le Nord jusqu'à la Pointe Riche. Que toutes les îles situées à l'entrée de la rivière, & dans la Golfe de St. Laurent, appartiendront au Roi.”

Add to this,

The Isle de Sable is likewise yielded to her Majesty, and makes the boundaty on the side of Acadie towards the east.

Mr.

Mr. Prior's letter of the 8th of January *, will find, that we thought the matter already accommodated ; Monsieur de Torcy alledges upon this, that their promise not to fish upon the Bank, answers all that can be required, and the naming a determinate distance, so far from the shore, can only serve to create new disputes. Monsieur de Torcy acquaints me, that the Council here, upon the perusal of the treaty, have observed that the title of Electress cannot be given to the Princess Sophia, in a treaty so solemnly made, till France has actually owned the House of Hanover to be electoral ; they propose to leave out the word *electricem*, letting the rest stand as it doth. Your Lordship will believe I used the best arguments I could to have it passed, and that this King, on the other side, insists upon the unreasonableness of his acknowledging a title

* *Extract of a letter from Mr. Prior to my Lord Bolingbroke, dated the 8th January, 1713.*

“ The demand that our Plenipotentiaries make, that the French shall not fish within thirty leagues of the south-end of Acadie, *i. e.* upon the Long Bank, which runs from west to east before the country, was founded upon this assertion that, while Acadie was in the French hands we were obliged to the like restriction, and consequently the words in the proposal lately sent, ‘ Que la province de l’Acadie, avec tous les droits & prérogatives dont les François ont joui, sera cédée par sa Majesté à la Reine de la Grande Bretagne,’ admits our claim, and finishes the dispute, as Monsieur de Torcy observes in the inclosed Memorial.”

in

in that house, which is actually in war with him, and treats the Elector of Bavaria and Cologne, as people under the ban of the empire, and even King Philip, as Duke of Anjou: you will also observe, that in case the Emperor makes his peace before the ratification of ours, the omission will be supplied in the engrossed instrument.

Two other objections have been made by the King himself, as overseen by his Plenipotentiaries, both relating to religion: one is, that in the places either yielded or restored to us, any inhabitant, being a Papist, who shall choose to continue her Majesty's subject, may have the free use of his religion; the other is the latter part of the fifth article of commerce, which I here inclose *, with my observations

** Latter part of the fifth article of Commerce.*

“ The first paragraph is agreed to.

“ The second I was willing to send over for your farther consideration; for that, besides the exception which the King makes to it here, I doubt it is

“ In re autem religionis integrâ subditis utriusque fœderatorum, ut & si matrimonium contraxerint, eorum uxoribus, ac liberis constabit libertas, neque in ecclesiis aut alibi sacris interesse, cogendi erunt.

“ Ipsis autem e contrario, Rem divinam suo more etiam si legibus vetito, privatim, & inter proprios parietes, & absque aliorum quorumcunque inter-
ventu

observations thereupon, and shall conform myself as your answer may direct.

From what relates immediately to our own affairs, we proceeded to those of our allies; Monsieur de Torcy takes it for granted, that when the King yielded Tournay, there was no exception allowed as to St. Amand and Mortagne; and that my Lord Strafford has said at Utrecht, that he has orders not to insist on account of those places; and as to the dependencies of Ipres, what they offered in the present plan of peace was, *Ipres & sa Châtellenie*, which cannot be construed to mean those districts, which the Dutch ask, and which were mentioned by name, when once offered by the French in the preliminaries of 1709.

I am, my Lord, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

P.S. By my Lord Lexington's letter I was

is contrary to our acts of Parliament in England, and would in effect tolerate a mass in every Frenchman's family.

"The third they admit, inserting the words *in quacunque occasione*, or such other words as may prevent its being thought that a public burial-place should be set aside for every nation."

ventu facere, omnino & absque ulla molestia licebit.

"Facultas porro defunctos utriusque partis in alterius de-tionibus subditos, locis commodis & honestis, ad id designandis, sepeliendi deneganda non erit, neque sepulorum cadavera ullâ molestiâ afficienda erunt."

very

very sorry to find the difficulty the King of Spain makes in regard to the Catalans; Monsieur de Torcy promises, that this Court shall write to soften that of Spain as much as can be on that subject.

From the Duke of Shrewsbury.*

MY LORD,

Paris, February 22d, 1712, N.S.

I HAVE not failed to do what your Lordship recommended me in cypher, in your last private letter of the 4th; I find they have no great opinion of the man, nevertheless your caution was not unnecessary, and will do good.

I confess myself at a loss to guess what her Majesty will say at the opening of this session, when we have neither peace nor war; when though it were most desirable to sign together with all the allies, yet it is certain that it is impossible to be done of some months, if we stay for the Emperor and the empire; and if I do not mistake, the French see well enough our circumstances to be convinced, the longer we remain in these uncer-

* Private.

tainties,

tainties, the less able we shall be to stand upon terms either for ourselves or our allies.

The Ministers here pretend to certain intelligence that the Imperialists seek nothing but delay, hoping that some great turn in their favour, from this King's great age, or our Queen's ill health; and that Prince Eugene is going to the Hague full of hopes to carry on the war. But what concerns me most is, that spring, the season of action, comes on apace, and we have not yet secured our peace, nor made preparations for war. I think it is time to speak clearly, and tell this Court what you expect for your allies, and what for yourselves, with assurance, that what you ask being granted, you are ready to sign, and to invite the others to do the same. It is now near your Lordship's hour of writing, at night, and I am very weary, but very sincerely,

My Lord, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

To the Earl of Strafford.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, February 13th, 1712-13.

I KNEW nothing of the matter mentioned in your Lordship's private letter of the

18th

18th till this morning. My first care was to speak to Sir William Windham *, and he assured me that there had been nothing done but in consequence of a general rule laid down by the Queen upon the reduction of her forces; that he would write to your Lordship about it, and that he flattered himself you would be satisfied there was not the least ground to look upon this as a hardship. In the mean while, I believe he delays the signification of the Queen's pleasure.

As to the case of Mr. Harvey, I can upon my own knowledge assure your Lordship, that you have been misinformed; he was so far from having the nomination of his officer, that the Queen gave the troop against his recommendation.

If Don Lewis † will take care of his own master's interest, we will endeavour to take care of the Queen's. I am sorry to find his intelligence is no better.

I shall do myself the honour to write to the King of Prussia, and shall take the liberty to recommend my letter to your Lordship by the next post. The little wasp, Bonet, plagues

* Secretary at War.

† Probably Da Cunha, the Portugal Plenipotentiary.

me about his subsidies; God knows, I can give him no answer; he fancies I will give him none.

I have solicited Mr. Ayerst's * cause; whether I shall succeed or not I know not, the Queen having many engagements upon her hands. I am, &c.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, February 17th, 1712-13.

IT falls again to my share to convey her Majesty's orders to your Grace, upon the present state of the negociation of peace, and I cannot but hope that the effect of the resolutions which the Queen is now come to, will be an immediate conclusion of the treaty between her and France; at least we shall extricate ourselves from this state of suspense which the season of the year renders it very unsafe to continue longer in, and shall know what we have to trust to on the part of France. Her Majesty's conduct will appear fair and uniform to the whole world, while

* Chaplain to the Earl of Strafford.

that of the Court, where your Grace at present resides, will have a quite contrary aspect, if they do not accept these overtures, and close with the Queen at once. But I ask pardon for troubling your Grace with this preface, and proceed to communicate to you her Majesty's sense, and her directions, as I received them last night, in Council.

As soon as this dispatch comes to your Grace's hands, her Majesty would have you, either in a conference with the French ministers, or in a memorial to be delivered to Monsieur de Torcy, or in both, make, in her name, a representation to the following effect:

That the Queen has hitherto deferred the opening of the Parliament, in hopes that these few difficulties which remain undetermined, either in the treaty of peace and of commerce between Great Britain and France, or in the discussion of the interests of her Majesty's allies, would have been entirely got over; or at least that, the former being taken away, France would have made such offers upon the latter, as might have enabled the Queen to have signed her treaty, without any farther regard to those parties, who
should

should not have thought fit to conclude at the same time. That the last letters, which her Majesty has received from your Grace, as well as from her Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht, not answering this hope, which she had conceived, but on the contrary, showing that some few differences still remain undecided, in the treaty between her Majesty and the Most Christian King, and that very little farther progress has been made, towards settling the interests of those powers, whose demands have met with the greatest opposition, her Majesty has judged it absolutely necessary to communicate her sentiments in this important crisis, and the measures which she is determined to follow, to his Most Christian Majesty sincerely, and without the least reserve.

That the fruit which she expects from this full communication of her intentions, is, either by these means to hasten the conclusion of the general peace, between her Majesty and the Crowns of France and Spain, or else, at the worst, to prevent at this season of the year, and the approach of spring, any surprise on either side; that you have received from the Queen, and are ready to

communicate to the King, her Majesty's last resolutions, as well upon those disputes, which relate particularly to the interests of Great Britain, as upon the chief points that remain undetermined in the general plan of peace; that these are not to be looked upon as new demands on France, most of them are points which have been already frequently discussed, and all of them are the most reasonable compositions which the Queen thinks it possible to make, for accommodating the present differences, and restoring the public tranquillity.

That if his Most Christian Majesty shall think fit to agree in these particulars with the Queen, your Grace has directions to give immediate notice to the Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht, to whom a courier will be dispatched from hence to-morrow morning, with the powers necessary for them to assume the character of Ambassadors, and to sign the peace.

That these Ministers, upon the receipt of this advice from your Grace, are directed to declare in the Congress, that the interests of Great Britain and France are entirely settled,

settled, and that they shall proceed immediately to sign her Majesty's peace.

That these Ministers are likewise directed, in pursuance of this declaration, as soon as the Ministers of France themselves shall desire it, and as the several instruments can be prepared, to conclude: that it is to be hoped all the allies will finish at the same time; but that if any of them should not be ready, her Majesty's ministers are ordered nevertheless to proceed to sign, leaving the general plan, as it is understood at Utrecht, and with the alterations and additions now proposed by her Majesty, as the scheme which such parties may, within a term to be settled between her Majesty's ministers and those of France, come in upon.

That this proceeding, on the Queen's part, is a full accomplishment of that promise which her Majesty formerly made, and has frequently repeated to the Most Christian King; but, that the declaration which always accompanied this promise of her Majesty, must not be forgot; which declaration was—That if her allies did sincerely enter into dispositions for peace, and, consequently, if the delay of concluding did not arise from

them, her Majesty would think herself obliged to keep other measures with them, and not to sign without them; that therefore, if his Most Christian Majesty shall not consent to the propositions which your Grace is ordered by her Majesty to make, as well in her own behalf, as in behalf of her allies, the Queen will, in pursuance of the established principle which is above-mentioned, continue her good offices for restoring the public tranquillity, but will be obliged to defer the execution of her treaty with France, until his Most Christian Majesty and the other powers concerned in the treaty of peace, shall come nearer to an agreement.

That upon these considerations, and with these views, the Queen has again prorogued her Parliament till Tuesday the third of March, O.S.; that the manner of her speaking to the two Houses, and indeed to the whole world, will depend on the resolution which the Most Christian King shall take on this occasion. That, in one case, her Majesty will speak of her own peace as concluded, and of the terms of peace for her allies, as agreed between herself and the King, and therefore propose to her people no other

other provisions for the service of the year, than what are necessary for the maintenance of the common guards by sea and land, in time of peace. That in the other case, her Majesty will be obliged to speak of the event of the negociation as still uncertain, and therefore to demand such supplies of her Parliament as may be necessary for carrying on the war, if unhappily the negociation of peace should not succeed. That it is now in the King's power, at once to make his peace with the Queen, and to secure the success of the general treaty. That her Majesty has, through the whole course of this negociation, done all that was possible to calm the minds, and to moderate the expectation of the several allies. That the general plan of peace, with the propositions now made, comes very near to that plan which his Most Christian Majesty thought fit to offer. In a word, that the Queen can reduce the demands of her allies no lower than they will, according to this scheme, stand, and that she cannot doubt the compliance of the King, since she is persuaded his Majesty will maintain to the end of the negociation, the same

spirit of facility, the same candour, with which it was begun.

The two papers inclosed (No. 1, No. 2) contain

(1) "*Memorial of the Queen's last resolutions upon the differences in the treaty of peace and commerce, between her Majesty and the Most Christian King.*"

"TREATY OF PEACE.

"THE difficulty about the title of Electress to the Princess Sophia, her Majesty is determined shall not stop the signing of the treaty; it may be reasonable that France give upon this occasion a declaration, that the King is ready to acknowledge the Electorate in the House of Brunswic, as soon as the Elector of Hanover shall come into a peace with France and Spain. Her Majesty insists upon the specification of the distance of thirty leagues on the south-east coast of Nova Scotia. Her Majesty persists in refusing that liberty which is demanded for the subjects of France, to sell their *bona immobilia* in the places yielded or restored to the Queen.

"If his Most Christian Majesty insists to have a clause inserted, by virtue whereof, in the places either yielded or restored to the Queen, any inhabitant, being a papist, who shall choose to continue her Majesty's subject, may have the free use of his religion, the said clause will be admitted with words to this effect, *as far as is consistent with the laws and policy of Great Britain.*"

"TREATY OF COMMERCE.

"THE Queen admits these words, *in quacunq[ue] occasione*, or such other words as may prevent it being thought, that a public burying-place should be set aside for every nation.

"The preceding paragraph which is the second in the paper (6), transmitted by the Duke of Shrewsbury, in his letter of February 22d, her Majesty thinks ought to remain; and being reciprocal, can have no reasonable objection made to it on the part of France: if the French think otherwise, the Queen will not stop the conclusion of the treaty for this difference. If any other matters are left in the treaty of commerce undetermined, they shall be specifically referred to the Commissioners appointed by the said treaty to meet after the peace."

"(2) *Memorial*

contain her Majesty's resolutions upon the disputed articles of her own peace, and of the

(2) *“ Memorial of the differences relating to the Interests of the Allies, and others, with the Queen's ultimate resolution upon each head.*

“ Proposals of France.

“ The Queen's Proposals.

“ PORTUGAL.

“ The Most Christian King offers to change the provisional treaty concluded between France and Portugal, into a definitive one, reserving the free navigation of the river of the Amazons, which is to be in common between the two nations,

“ Portugal, for the sake of peace, and in deference to the Queen, agreeing to depart from the barrier which by their treaty they are entitled to expect, her Majesty is obliged to insist, in their behalf, that both France and Spain shall, in the strongest and clearest terms, engage not to molest the dominions of Portugal, or give them any trouble under any pretence whatsoever, either in Europe,

the West-Indies, or in any other part of the world. That the hardships imposed upon Portugal by France, in the provincial treaty (a copy whereof is herewith sent, and a state of the case as it has been given in by the Minister of Portugal here) shall be wholly removed; that to this end the Queen insists that France shall depart from all pretensions to a freedom of navigation in the river of the Amazons; that the north as well as the south side of the river shall, for the future, be understood to belong to the Portuguese; that they shall enter again into the possession of the country which, by the above-mentioned treaty, they were obliged to abandon; that the said treaty shall be made definitive, in such manner, that the right of country, thereby kept in suspense, shall be entirely given up, and remain for ever to the Crown of Portugal; and that the boundaries shall be so clearly and distinctly settled, in a treaty between France and Portugal, that no room may be left for any farther dispute upon this head: to all this the Queen promises to give her guaranty.

“ ELECTOR OF BAVARIA.

“ ELECTOR OF BAVARIA.

“ The 7th of December last, the Earl of Strafford informed the

“ The proposition, as then made, on the part of France, by

the general plan. These are what I refer to above, and what your Grace will please to

the States-General, by the Queen's command, that the Most Christian King made pressing instances in favour of his ally, the Elector of Bavaria; that what the King pretended to demand for him was, that the said Elector should keep the possession of Luxembourg, Namur, and Charleroi, being subject to the terms of the barrier, until he should be re-established in the electorate of Bavaria, and be put in the rank and dignity of ninth Elector; that, besides this, his Most Christian Majesty proposed that the kingdom of Sardinia should be given to the said Elector, that by the title of King the dishonour of being degraded to the ninth electorate might be effaced.

“ The French likewise demand for the said Elector, at present, that, after he is even restored to Bavaria, he shall retain the sovereignty of Luxembourg, till he shall have received an entire compensation for the thirteen millions of florins formerly paid for the Upper Palatinate, and satisfaction for his other demands, arising from inobservation of the treaty made between the late Emperor Joseph and the Electress of Bavaria, at Ilmersheim, near Landau.

by the Earl of Strafford, in behalf of the Elector of Bavaria, the Queen entirely agrees to; and, as a farther compliance with the demands of France for that Prince, her Majesty likewise offers to consent that the Elector shall continue to retain the sovereignty of Luxembourg, until he has a just satisfaction made him on account of his pretensions in respect to the infraction of the treaty of Ilmersheim. But the Queen understands the matter thus: that the Elector is not to be judge of his own satisfaction; that some arbitration or other is to be appointed, to determine the same as soon as possible, and her Majesty offers to be one of the arbitrators; and that in this case also, Luxembourg, as well as the other places to be given up by the Elector, is to be subject to the terms of the barrier, and to be garrisoned from the moment his peace is signed, in such manner as shall be agreed among the allies.

“ This is the ultimatum which the Queen proposes in respect to the Elector of Bavaria; but as other expedients have been mentioned in the course of the negotiation, her Majesty, to facilitate the accommodation of this matter, is willing to agree to either of the following proposals, provided

to offer, as the Queen's *ultimatum*, to the French.

Her

vided the parties concerned accept of one of them: 1. That the Elector of Bavaria shall give up Nieuport, Charleroi, Namur, Luxembourg, and all that he is in possession of, at present, to the Emperor; that France shall agree to add to the barrier of the empire, either by accepting the proposition of making the river Soor the boundary between Alsatia and the empire, or by closing in with the offer made by Count Sinzendorf, a copy whereof goes herewith. On the other side, in consideration of these concessions, the Emperor shall consent immediately to restore the Elector of Bavaria to all that he was in possession of before the war, that is, both to his territories and to his rank in the empire; and this to be understood as a full satisfaction to that Elector, for all demands whatsoever. But to make the Elector Palatine amends for what he will lose by this expedient, the Emperor shall give him the kingdom of Sardinia. Or,

" 2. That the Elector of Bavaria shall be immediately restored, both to the possession of all his territories in the Empire, and to his rank in the Imperial College; and that in lieu of the Upper Palatinate, the Elector Palatine shall have the places and countries, of which the Elector of Bavaria is at present possessed; together with such others as the Emperor shall part with on that side, as also that territory which will be yielded by France, in case the Soor be made the barrier of the empire; and as the Emperor will, by this proposition, retain the kingdom of Sardinia, some expedient must be found, by erecting the Elector Palatine's territory into a kingdom, or by some other way, to recompense him for the loss of the rank of first Elector.

" BARRIER OF THE STATES.

" France likewise in yielding Ipres and its châtellany, except the bailliage of Bailleul and Poperingue.

" France excepts out of the cession of the Tournesis, Mortagne and St. Amand.

" BARRIER OF THE STATES.

" The Queen agrees that France should retain St. Amand and Mortagne, provided the latter be kept purely for a communication by water between Condé and Douay; and that France be obliged at no time, and on no account, to make any sluices or fortifications there.

" As

" I

Her Majesty thinks it impossible, that the King can have any difficulty in agreeing to those points, whereon she insists as to her own interests. There are but two which deserve to have a paragraph bestowed upon them, and they are in the 12th and in the 14th articles of the treaty of peace. We persuade ourselves that Monsieur de Torcy's argument upon the first of these, makes di-

"I do not find in the papers brought over by Mr. Prior, that any mention was made of these two places.

"Commines, Deallemunde, Trelinghen, and Houpelines were desired to be given with Lille, as being situated on the Lis, and that they would create disputes if two powers enjoyed them, having part on one side and part on the other side of the river.

"As to the bailliage of Bailleul and Poperingue, her Majesty, in her speech to her Parliament declared, that the States-General should have their barrier, as it was specified in the preliminaries of 1709, except two or three places at most, in which number Ipres is not contained; as therefore the said preliminaries do specify, that France shall deliver up to the States, Ipres and its châtellany, with the dependancy thereof, which are

reckoned to be Baillicul or Belle, Warneton, Communes, Warwyck, Poperingue, and whatsoever else depends on those places (the town and châtellany of Cassel, remaining to the Most Christian King) her Majesty does think, that only the town and châtellany of Cassel, are to be excepted out of the cession of Ipres and its dependences, and that the bailliage of Bailleul and Poperingue are not to be yielded to the States-General by France, as dependencies of Ipres; this her Majesty does propose as her decision in this case. But if France shall agree to all the other conditions, as well concerning the interest of the allies, as those of Great Britain in particular; in such case, if it were argued very pressingly, the Queen would consent that the French should retain the bailliage of Bailleul, and that the States should have Poperingue."

rectly

rectly against him, and for us; since they agree not to fish upon the coast of Acadie, nor upon the bank, it can do them no hurt to have the boundary fixed at thirty leagues; and sure, my Lord, your naming a determinate distance, is much less likely to create new disputes, than a general stipulation. The clause of the *bona immobilia*, in the 14th article, her Majesty never heard of, till the French counter-project was transmitted, about the end of last December; and she never agreed to that pretension of felling the immoveables in St. Christopher and Acadie, upon the distinction of places yielded, and places restored; but in debating of this matter, it was said by her order, to show the absurdity of this demand, that the French would have more reason to expect such a privilege in Newfoundland, where they did not demand it, than in St. Christopher's and Acadie, where they did demand it; and from hence, I observe, in the paper sent me by your Grace, and marked (No. 3), that Monsieur de Torcy would suppose, that this privilege was to be allowed to them in St. Christopher's, Acadia, and Newfoundland; which surely, if not at any time very fair, and when

there is so much reason on all articles to shun delay, not very wise. Upon the whole matter, I wish the French may as easily consent to the papers marked (2) as I dare say they will to that marked (1). I believe that whenever it shall be considered, how far the demands of the allies are, by her Majesty's interposition, reduced from what was formerly asked, and from what France itself would have willingly granted; the scheme of peace as it will stand, when these propositions made by the Queen, shall be accepted, must be thought such a bargain, as no side can have reason to complain of, and I beg your Grace's leave to make some observations on the principal heads. The States-General have hitherto insisted on Condé, in addition to the barrier offered them, on the four species, and on all the dependances belonging to Ipres and Tournay now disputed. Their demand of Condé, the Queen consents should be dropped; the four species she has so far given up in her own case, as to refer the discussion of them to commissioners, and she expects that the States should do the same. Of the dependances which are still controverted, two,

viz. St. Amand and Mortagne, for the latter of which, the French have the pretence of conveniency; the Queen is willing to oblige the Dutch to yield. The other two, *viz.* Bailleul and Poperingue, which are neither passes nor fortresses, and in the yielding whereof nothing is concerned, but a little more or little less revenue, the Queen is desirous to preserve for the States, though your Grace has a power of departing from the former, rather than not conclude.

Surely, my Lord, upon a fair computation, the sum total of the concessions made to France, will balance that of the concessions made by France, in this part of the plan which relates to Holland. Upon the head of Bavaria, the French would do well to consider what disadvantage their stiffness, as to the barrier of the Empire, throws all arguments under, which are made use of in behalf of this Elector. The proposition which my Lord Strafford made for him, some time ago, and which her Majesty thought the French intended to acquiesce in, is not without its difficulties; yet even that appears to them not sufficient for their ally, and they have been trying by all arts
of

of negociation to get more for him ; though it might be expected that the Queen should think herself under no obligation, since the French Ministers did not at first accept what she offered in their master's name, yet her Majesty is still willing to stand to that proposal, softened and improved to the Elector's advantage, as your Grace finds in the memorial that accompanies this letter ; and the single question seems to be, whether France will be contented to accept what, without the Queen's assistance, they could never have hoped to obtain for the Elector ; or whether they will defer their peace with the Queen, and expose the general treaty to new dangers, in order to play such a trick as indirectly to endeavour to acquire Luxemburg, which they have in their general offers plainly yielded ? for this is, without dispute, the meaning of all their late management. I have reason to believe from the accounts that have come to my hands, of what has passed at Utrecht, that the demand made for Portugal will go very hardly down at the French court, and yet surely there was nothing more reasonable for France to consent to than what the Queen proposes. Portu-
gal

gal was entitled to demand a considerable barrier, and whatever contempt the French Ministers may think fit to treat the Portuguese with, yet they ought to pay respect to this pretension; and since it was become her Majesty's pretension, by the engagement she entered into when she made the treaty of 1703, this barrier is at once given up, and in lieu thereof a promissory security only is demanded of France and Spain. Now, since the Portuguese do consent to accept of this security, in lieu of that which they had stipulated for themselves, and since the Queen's honour is concerned, not to oblige them to part with one, without making the other effectual to them; it is to be considered, that in Europe no attempt can be made upon this nation, which the crown of Great Britain will not be almost as much at hand to oppose, as France or Spain can be to carry it on; but in Brazil the case is not the same. The French have there slid themselves into the neighbourhood of the Portuguese, they are every day starting new pretensions, and making new encroachments upon them; the Queen is at a distance, and those feeble ill-governed colonies may be overrun, before

the news of their being attacked will arrive in London. Nothing, therefore, can be more just, than for the Queen to expect that, in consideration of what she yields, for that expression may be properly used, in Europe, France should yield something in America. Farther, the navigation of the river of the Amazons cannot but give umbrage even to the Spaniard. Whoever is informed of the freshest accounts which have come from those parts, and of the latest discoveries which have been made, will easily perceive what reasons the Spaniards must have for their apprehensions. In short, my Lord, the source of the river must belong to the Spaniard, the mouth of it to the Portuguese, and neither the French nor the English, nor any other nation, must have an avenue open into that country. I am almost ashamed to have used so many words upon this subject, when I consider that I am arguing against an advantage purely national; when I am not proving that the French ought to give up what they have had an actual possession of, but am barely desiring them to forego that, which they never enjoyed but in idea.

Your

Your Grace may, perhaps, wonder why there is nothing said in the paper (2) concerning the interests of the Duke of Savoy; but the reason of it is, because your Grace must, without giving up the point, defer the determining it. The Queen observes, that in your letter of the 16th, you are pleased to say, that France will yield what has been asked for the Duke of Savoy to him, upon condition that his Royal Highness will yield to them *la Vallée de Barcelonette avec les douze communautés dont elle est composée*. By the letter from the Count de Maffei to me, which comes inclosed, your Grace will perceive, that the French Ministers at Utrecht have made the proposition in another manner, and have said that *avec les terres proposées de la comté de Nice, le Roi demandoit la Vallée de Barcelonette*. We take it for granted, that the instructions of the French Plenipotentiaries were agreeable to what your Grace has writ, but these gentlemen it seems, had a mind *de faire les bons valets*; and it is no wonder we do not know the true sense of the Ministers of Savoy, upon this offer of the French court, since the King's Ministers have not truly stated

the offer to the Ministers of his Royal Highness. It is therefore the Queen's pleasure, that your Grace should open this matter to Monsieur de Torcy; and should let him know, that for this reason, the Queen has not spoke so peremptorily on this head, as she has done upon others; but that her Majesty will insist to the last to obtain for his Royal Highness, that which is necessary for his security, he giving the equivalent he has offered, or something equal to that equivalent, for it. Whether the Valley of Barcelonette be that something or no, the Queen cannot yet determine; and upon this occasion, my Lord, I cannot forbear making two reflections on the conduct which the French court has held, and the arguments which their Ministers have used in debating this part of the general treaty. Their first reason for refusing to the Duke of Savoy the addition which he demanded to his barrier was, that this addition could not be looked upon as really and essentially necessary to his security; soon after, they offered, as an expedient for compromising the difficulty, that the King should keep the villages demanded by the Duke, but oblige himself not to canton,

ton, at any time, troops in them. I appeal to your Grace, whether those who proposed this expedient did not thereby very fully give up the arguments they had before insisted upon? Another objection made on the part of France to this demand was, that the villages in question, were part of the ancient domain of the crown, which it seems his Majesty can upon no account whatsoever resolve to yield; and yet this point of honour is to be got over, and this domain is to be parted with, provided the Valley of Barcelonette be given in exchange.

By what I have said, your Grace perceives that the Queen continues still of the same opinion, with respect to this article of the Duke of Savoy's demands, although she cannot speak so positively of it as she would do, because the false proposition made by the French Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht has hindered her from knowing the sense of the Savoy Ministers upon the true one. But I must open another matter to your Grace, which renders her Majesty less zealous in this cause, than otherwise she would be, or at least makes her think it proper to give some appearance of coolness. When Mon-

sieur de Mellaredede was in England, he asked her Majesty's leave to form a body of Irish troops, which the Duke of Savoy proposed to take into his pay, for the garrisoning of Sicily. The Queen did not think fit to agree to this proposal ; but, in lieu thereof, Monsieur de Mellaredede was told, that her Majesty would furnish his master with five old regiments of foot, to be kept in Sicily ; that in consideration of this, he should be obliged, in case Minorca was attacked, to send land succours from Sicily thither, as her Majesty would be obliged, in case Sicily was attacked, to send a squadron of her ships from Minorca thither. It is true, indeed, that Monsieur de Mellaredede desired a project of a convention for the entertainment of these troops, which was not at that time given him, and which has been very lately sent over ; but the overture having been made to him, her Majesty is a good deal shocked to find, that his Royal Highness has not thought it worth his while to take any the least notice thereof.

I have now gone through all which I had in command from her Majesty to your Grace, as to the manner of winding up this great negociation.

negociation. I shall conclude this subject by saying that to you, which I am sure you will say to the Ministers of France, that the King has now the whole before him, that the fear of posterior demands, the old excuse for unsatisfactory answers, can no longer be given; and we had better run the risk of those confusions, which must follow the breaking the negociation, or even the protracting it, than submit to receive the law in so arbitrary a manner as we must do, if France refuses to subscribe to the plan now chalked out by the Queen. When I consider the clearness with which your Grace will express these orders, the arguments with which you will back them, and the spirit with which, I am sure, you will support the whole, I confess I cannot have very much concern about the event.

I shall not fail to dispatch the powers and instructions above-mentioned to the Queen's Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht.

I am, &c.

BOLINGBROKE.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, February 17th, 1712, O.S.

I SHOULD, by this courier, particularly answer the private letters which your Grace has honoured me with, and send you at the same time the informations you want, in order more closely to examine Affurini, the father and the son; but it is so extremely late, and I am so thoroughly spent, that I must beg your Grace to excuse me, till the next opportunity of writing.

The Queen is not yet able to walk, from the weakness which the gout leaves in her limbs; otherwise, God be praised! she is in a good state of health: we have some advices, as if ———* was not in the same, the truth of which your Grace must be better informed of.

I am less and less satisfied every day with the Duke d'Aumont; all the Abbé Gaultier can do to set him right is done, but he is too conceited ever to mend. I find the Spanish Minister very much shocked at some

* Meaning, probably, Louis XIV.

part of his behaviour. Your Grace easily believes I take no pains to heal this breach.

I am, &c.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, Feb. 18th, 1712-13.

I DISPATCH this messenger, in hopes he may be able to overtake Phillips, who went away early this morning with the Earl of Dartmouth's letters, and a voluminous packet from me, to your Grace.

I made, it seems, some small mistake, in taking the Queen's sense, as to that article which relates to the Elector of Bavaria, in the paper 2d. Your Grace will therefore please to use that which I have now the honour to transmit to you *, instead of the other.

* *“ Memorial of the Queen's ultimate resolution upon the principal points which remain unsettled in the general plan of Peace.*

“ PORTUGAL.

“ The King of Portugal being determined to sign his peace with France and Spain at the same time with the Queen, her Majesty thinks herself obliged to insist, in behalf of that Crown, that France and Spain shall, in the strongest and clearest terms, engage not to molest the dominions of Portugal, or to give them any trouble, under any pretence whatsoever, either in Europe, the West-Indies, or any other part of the world; that the provisional treaty made by France with that Crown, a copy of which

other. In this paper, the mistake I mention is not only rectified, but some other points are more fully and clearly expressed.

The

which treaty, together with a state of this case as it has been given in by the Minister of Portugal residing here, accompanies this memorial, shall not only be made definitive, as the French ministers have offered, but also effectually to secure the Portuguese in the quiet possession of their settlements. That France shall expressly depart from all pretensions to a freedom of navigation in the River of the Amazons. That the north shore as well as the south shore of this river, shall for the future be understood to belong to the Portuguese. That the Portuguese shall again take possession of, and for the future quietly enjoy, without any disturbance on the part of France, that country which, by the abovementioned provisional treaty, they were obliged to evacuate. That the boundaries shall be by treaty clearly and distinctly fixed, between the possessions of the Portuguese thus established, and such settlement or settlements as the French may actually have on the coast, so as to leave no room for future dispute on this head. That, in consideration of those articles, and of the satisfaction which it will be proposed to the Spanish minister that the King of Spain shall give to the Crown of Portugal, not only with respect to the colony of the Sacramento, but also with respect to the demands made by the Portuguese, and formerly allowed by the Spaniards, on account of the *asiento*; the King of Portugal shall depart from all pretensions to any place or places as a barrier, or otherwise on the continent of Spain. That the guaranty of the Queen shall be accepted of to all conditions of peace between France, Spain, and Portugal."

"ELECTOR OF BAVARIA.

"*Proposition made by the Earl of Strafford, the 7th of December, 1712, N.S.*

"The Most Christian King demanded in favour of his ally the Elector of Bavaria, that the said Elector should keep possession of Luxemburg, Namur, and Charleroi, being sub-

ject

"That the proposition made by the Earl of Strafford at the Hague, on the 7th of December last, N.S. be accepted, in the terms in which it was then made, and which are inserted in the margin of this paper, except as to the alteration of them contained in the following

ing

The Queen was glad to find in your Grace's letter of the 16th, that orders have been

ject to the terms of the Barrier, until he should be re-established in the Electorate of Bavaria, exclusive of the Upper Palatinate, and be put in the rank and dignity of 9th Elector. Besides, his Most Christian Majesty proposed, that the kingdom of Sardinia should be given to the said Elector, that by the title of King, the dishonour of being degraded to the 9th Electorate might be effaced.

" Addition to the second proposition made by the Earl of Strafford, in favour of the Elector of Bavaria.

barrier, no longer than till he is re-established in the electorate of Bavaria, exclusive of the Upper Palatinate, till he have the kingdom of Sardinia yielded to him, and till he be put in the rank and dignity of ninth Elector; it is now offered farther in favour of this Elector, that he shall retain the sovereignty of Luxemburg, until satisfaction has been made him for his pretensions in respect to the infraction of the treaty of Ilmerheim, provided this Elector do not pretend to be judge of his own satisfaction, but accept some arbitration or other, and her Majesty offers to be one of the arbitrators; and provided there be no farther dispute about the garrisoning of this place, of Namur, or of Charleroi, the security of which important places is one of the principal objects of the peace, this is the *ultimatum* which the Queen proposes in respect to the Elector of Bavaria; but if the insisting upon this should produce on the part of the Emperor, any other proposition, equally or more agreeable to the Elector, her Majesty will come into the same."

" STATES-GENERAL.

" For accommodating the differences which remain between the Ministers of France, and those of Holland, her Majesty proposes,

" That

ing paragraph, which is the utmost length her Majesty can go, in compliance with the Most Christian King upon this head.

" That whereas by the proposition made by the Earl of Strafford, the said Elector is to keep possession of Luxemburg, Namur, and Charleroi, subject to the terms of the

been so readily given for recalling the licences bargained for by the Count de Bergheyck, for six French ships to sail to the South Sea. The French Ministers gave a good turn to their own conduct in this affair, and I will be far from robbing them of the applause they merit; but to your Grace I must say, that the refusal which the King of Spain declared he would give to the confirmation of the Count de Bergheyck's contract, was some ingredient in promoting the resolution which the Court of France took.

“ That the States-General shall refer, as her Majesty has, on her part, already done, the consideration of the four excepted species to Commissaries who may meet after the peace.

“ That St. Amand and Mortagne remain to France, provided the latter be kept purely for a communication by water between Condé and Douay; and that France be obliged at no time, and on no account, to make any sluices or fortifications there. That the bailliage of Bailleul and Poperingue do remain to the Dutch.

“ This her Majesty proposes as her decision in the disputes between Holland and France: but if France shall agree to the other conditions, and show an inclination at once to finish; in such case, if it may be of use to save time, and conclude the whole system of a general peace, her Majesty will consent, and the Duke of Shrewsbury may agree, that the bailliage of Bailleul remain to France, and that Poperingue go along with Ipres.

“ These proposals being accepted by his Most Christian Majesty, they are to be added to the articles which have been already adjusted at Utrecht, and the whole is to be looked upon as the general plan, which her Majesty and the Most Christian King are agreed in, which the Ministers of Great Britain and France shall jointly offer to the allies, and upon the assurance of making which good, her Majesty will forthwith sign her treaty of peace.”

If

If I was not afraid your Grace would think me tedious, I would, upon this occasion, say, that the French cannot establish, at this time, a wiser principle, than that of curing the world of the jealousy which has been entertained of the designs of France, to let themselves in, not only to the Spanish trade, but the Spanish dominions too, in the West Indies; and from hence a very good argument may be drawn, why the proposition, made by her Majesty in the behalf of Portugal, should, without hesitation, be accepted. Some encroachments which have been already made by the French, in the island of St. Domingo, and the design which they appear to have of establishing and strengthening themselves in their colony of Louisa, which is not far from the kingdom of Mexico, give apprehensions of their future undertakings in North America. If they insist to drive the Portuguese from the north shore of the river of the Amazons, and to confirm to themselves a right of navigation in that river, the world will be as much alarmed at what they may hereafter attempt in South America.

The French tried, in Mr. Prior's case,
one

one of those little artifices, which they cannot abandon, which always fix a certain degree of infamy upon those who use them, and which seldom or never procure any advantage, equal to the constant disadvantage of a bad character. But as I look upon this matter to be now entirely over, there needs no more to be said about it ; and I am sorry it gave Mr. Prior so much concern.

I am, &c.

BOLINGBROKE.

De Monsieur de Torcy.

A Versailles, le 7^{me} Février, 1713, N.S.

JE brûle, avec beaucoup de plaisir, une lettre que j'eus l'honneur de vous écrire avant hier. Je vous exhortois à finir une négociation qui languissoit : mais, grâces à Dieu ! vous l'avez terminée, & quoiqu'il ait fallu céder à la véhémence de Matthieu, je ne lui reprocherai point une victoire qui établit enfin la paix entre nous. Faites qu'elle soit promptement signée, pour imposer silence aux mauvais raisonneurs, dont le nombre est très-grand en tout pays.

La Reine fera perdre tout crédit à ceux
qui

qui font en Hollande, quand elle voudra s'expliquer, comme il lui convient, & prescrire à ses alliés un terme fort court pour signer avec elle, si sa Majesté Britannique veut encore les attendre ; mais en vérité le tems est bien précieux, & quand on est d'accord de part & d'autre, il me semble qu'il ne faut pas retarder les bonnes affaires par la considération de ceux qui n'ont cherché qu'à les traverser.

Quoique la paix réunisse les deux nations, je vous assure, my Lord, qu'elle ne peut augmenter le desir que j'ai de mériter la continuation de l'honneur de votre amitié, & de vous faire connoître en toutes occasions que je suis, &c.

DE TORCY.

A Monsieur de Torcy.

De Whitehall, ce 17^{me} Février, V.S. 1712-13.

JE crois, Monsieur, que la conjoncture dans laquelle nous nous trouvons, & l'importance des affaires dont il s'agit, me serviront d'excuse, si je vous importune d'une de mes lettres, & si j'ajoute de moi-même quelque

quelque chose à ce que Monsieur le Duc de Shrewsbury vous dira de la part de la Reine.

Je regarde la paix entre la Grande Bretagne & la France comme réglée, puisqu'il est certain que les différens qui restent indécis dans le 14^{me} article sur les *bona immobilia*, & dans le 12^{me} sur les *triginta* lieues, n'en arrêteront pas la conclusion : si donc les alliés de la Reine persisteraient à ne vouloir point traiter, ou si en traitant ils continuassent à insister sur les demandes qu'ils ont jusques-ici faites, nous n'aurions qu'à signer la paix particulière, en leur laissant un terme pour accepter le plan du Roi, selon ce qui a été autrefois promis par la Reine. Mais, Monsieur, vous voyez qu'ils filent doux, & que la différence qu'il y a entre ce que vos Ministres proposent, & ce que les autres demandent, n'est pas assez considérable pour pouvoir nous autoriser de dire qu'ils restent encore dans leur tort, qu'ils sont opiniâtres, & qu'il faut les abandonner.

La Reine a différé, le plus long-tems qu'il lui a été possible, de prescrire à ses alliés, elle a souhaité même de donner le champ libre aux Ministres de sa Majesté Très Chrétienne, pour gagner par la négociation sur ces
I esprits,

esprits, que les événemens de la Campagne passée ont rendu plus dociles. Mais la saison s'avance, peut-être, la regarderions-nous déjà comme trop avancée, si nous ne comptions pas que vous cherchez à faire une paix raisonnable, & non pas à prendre quelque petit avantage pour la continuation de la guerre. Il faut donc ou prévenir l'ouverture de la Campagne, par la conclusion de la paix, ou se préparer dès à cette heure à la traiter les armes à la main ; le premier vaut infiniment mieux que le dernier ; pour cet effet, je viens d'envoyer à my Lord de Shrewsbury les derniers sentimens de sa Majesté sur les principaux articles qui restent à être réglés à Utrecht. Si le Roi trouve à propos de concourir avec la Reine, ces points, & ceux qui ont été déjà accordés par les Plénipotentiaires de France, formeront le plan général que la Reine & le Roi conjointement offriront aux parties intéressées.

Si les alliés acceptent ce plan, la paix générale est assurée ; s'ils ne l'acceptent pas, celle de la Reine sera signée, d'abord que vos Ministres eux-mêmes le souhaiteront. Je ne puis pas me résoudre à supposer seulement que ce plan puisse être rejeté, puisqu'il

contient toutes les facilités que la Reine est en état de donner, & puisqu'elle se trouveroit dans ce cas obligée de parler à son Parlement du succès de la négociation comme incertain. Vous voyez, Monsieur, combien cela donneroit de l'avantage aux mal-intentionnés par-tout, combien cela causeroit de l'embarras ici, & du désordre dans le reste de l'Europe.

Vous aurez présentement le plan entier de la paix tout à la fois devant les yeux, vous n'aurez point de demandes ultérieures à craindre, & le Roi peut dans un moment finir ce qu'il consomeroit des mois, pour ne pas dire des années, à régler au Congrès.

Notre Parlement ne s'assemblera que le 3^{me} du mois prochain, V.S. ainsi nous avons tout le tems qu'il nous faut pour recevoir vos réponses, & pour prendre nos mesures, qui ne dépendent que de vos résolutions, car la Reine est la maîtresse de donner tel pli qu'elle voudra aux affaires chez nous.

Peut-être que tous les avis que vous recevrez ne seront point conformes à ce que j'ai l'honneur de vous mander; je crois pourtant être assez au fait de ce qui se passe

ici, & pouvoir vous répondre de la conduite de notre Cour, & du génie de notre peuple. Ce qu'il y a de certain, c'est que je vous écris naturellement ce que je fais, & ce que je pense, que je ne vous ai jamais trompé, & que je ne vous tromperai jamais, & qu'on ne peut être avec une estime plus parfaite que je le suis, Monsieur, &c.

BOLINGBROKE.

Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Reine me mandent qu'ils ont commencé à parler des intérêts du Duc de St. Pierre, & qu'ils espèrent lui pouvoir rendre service.

To the Lord Privy Seal.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, February 20th, 1712, O.S.

THE Queen has been so good as to name my brother to be her Secretary at Utrecht, and I cannot dispatch him thither without begging your Lordship's protection to him. As I am truly sensible of the advantage which he will have by being under your Lordship's direction, so I desire you to believe that I shall ever be truly thankful

G g 2

for

for all the favour and countenance which your Lordship shall please to show him.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, my Lord, your's, &c.

To the Earl of Strafford.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, February 20th, 1712-13.

THIS letter will be delivered to your Lordship by my brother*, whom the Queen has been pleased to name for her Secretary at Utrecht, on Mr. Harrison's death. As he may probably enough inherit some honour and more estate, and I should be glad to see him fitted to serve his country, and to be useful in his generation, I know no better occasion to fire him with great examples, and to improve him by opportunities of acquiring knowledge. It is therefore with the greatest pleasure that I send him to the Congress, and that I promise myself your Lordship's patronage to him. You will have two brothers in the list of your servants, my

* George St. John.

Lord,

Lord, and I desire the others as they grow up may be placed on the same roll.

The letter of the States-General to her Majesty, certainly answers the design which your Lordship intended by procuring it; it gives the clearest testimonies of submission to, and confidence in, her Majesty, and therefore would effectually silence the clamours of those, who might pretend to deplore the hard fate of the Dutch, and to insinuate their dissatisfaction. But, my Lord, if France will be tractable, we must now close, and cease any longer to consider who is in, and who out of humour. Those who wish the peace, and that is, your Lordship knows, a vast majority here, have been dissatisfied, that the treaty was not more precipitated; but we hope it will appear to the cooler reflections even of these people, that her Majesty has pursued a plan worthy of herself in staying to the last moment for her obstinate, ungrateful allies; and in signing resolutely, without any regard to entreaties or representations, when the last moment comes.

I believe the Duke of Marlborough * may

* The Duke retired to the Continent in November, 1712, and the Duchess joined him at Aix-la-Chapelle, in February, 1713.

be meddling in politics. It is hard for so old a gamester to leave off playing. It puts me in mind of a man I knew, who when he had lost all his money, and was out of the party, because no one would play with him upon tick, went home, and shuffled the cards, and tried tricks upon them alone all the rest of the night. We have information here in general, that he intrigues with emissaries of the Dutch; one intelligence pretends that he has met the Emperor incognito, a few leagues from Vienna, this indeed is very chimerical.

I have already made the Marquis de Monteleon found his own court in Count Passionei's favour; in a post or two, I will do myself the honour to answer the letter which his Holiness's Minister has writ me.

I am ever, my dear Lord, your slave.

To the Earl of Strafford.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, March 4th, 1712-13.

I DO not reckon that I deserve your Lordship's thanks, for giving you the earliest account which I could of the matter which
you

you was pleased to write to me upon, concerning a promotion in your regiment; it was the least I owed to one, for whom I profess so true a value and so sincere a friendship.

Before this letter can possibly reach your Lordship's hands, you will have known, that the Queen has been pleased, as a mark of her approbation of my poor services, to appoint my brother to succeed Mr. Harrison. His youth, his inexperience in his business, would have made me doubtful whether I ought to let him accept of so great an honour; but that consideration which determined me, after my dependance on your Lordship's goodness to forgive, instruct, and countenance him, was the knowledge I had of Mr. Ayerst's capacity, and the opinion I entertained, that he would be willing to assist George at Utrecht, whilst I endeavour to be serviceable to him here. If at that time I had imagined Mr. Ayerst's views could lead him to think of being the Queen's Secretary, perhaps I should have altered mine.

What application my Lord Privy Seal has made for his Secretary, I do not know, I suppose none, since he has not made it

through me. I am very sensible of the respect due to my Lord Privy Seal, as a Prelate, a Minister of State, and a man of real probity and worth; but I hardly believe he is so little sensible of what is due to me, as not to allow me *voix en chapitre*, on such an occasion.

Upon what you mention in a former letter, I took occasion to tell the Queen, that as your expence in Holland was exorbitant, and as I knew you was obliged, in some instances, to contract for terms of several months, it would certainly be of great use to you to be informed in time, whether she intended, after the conclusion of the peace, to employ you abroad or to call you home? Her Majesty's answer was, that would call you home as soon as the negociation was finished, since your service would be of use to her here, and since she should not have occasion for so high a character in Holland.

The fear of the Queen's catching cold before the gout has entirely spent itself, has been the only reason of putting the Parliament again off, though the speculative here find many other ways of accounting for this step. On Tuesday we shall sit, and I believe

lieve I may venture to prophecy, that the dissatisfied will be able to create no disturbance; we impatiently expect to hear that you have signed. I am, &c.

To the Lord Privy Seal.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, March 4th, 1712-13.

I AM very glad of this occasion to renew those sincere professions which I have formerly made, of being your Lordship's servant. In this character I would not let slip any opportunity of doing such little services as my power extends to, for those who have the honour to belong to your Lordship. I had thoughts, indeed, of introducing Mr. Wood into the Consulship of Flanders, where Logan* must by no means continue, and shall keep this door open until your Lordship has thought farther of the matter, or until some better provision is made for your nephew, and a better, I question not, will be made. Sure I am, the services which your Lordship had performed for her Majesty, deserve that recommendations

* John Logan, Consul to Ostend and Bruges.

should

should not only find ingression, but always succeed. I will be Mr. Wood's Solicitor, and I hope to give you a satisfactory account of my proceedings. In the mean time, I entreat your Lordship to think of some proper person for the consulship of Ostend, and lay your commands upon me.

What relates to your Lordship's own affairs, I am very sensibly concerned at. If the great debt which the Earl of Godolphin left upon the civil list, obliges her Majesty to be backward in paying her servants, we who are at home can find some resource, and make one shift or other to go on, but, indeed, those who serve abroad, and in posts of eminent and expensive, as that where your Lordship is, ought never to be in arrear.

I hope to be able by the next post to let your Lordship know, that my Lord Treasurer has taken care to redress this great grievance; I have already applied to him, and shall to-morrow have the opportunity of doing so again. I am, &c.

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Paris, February 28th, 1712, N.S.

I DID not know that La Vigne was going for England, till he calls as he passes to ask if we have any letters. I hope by what my Lord Duke sent you on Wednesday, the difficulties which our Plenipotentiaries from Utrecht mentioned, and those made by the Court here, may be adjusted: I suppose the articles of commerce have been duly weighed in England; as I have looked them over, and corrected a copy which I had of them, by one which I had from Monsieur de Torcy, my own being very imperfect, and considerable changes made since. I take leave to observe to you, that in the 27th article, *Intra spatium sex septimarum intra* the Naze in Norwegia, we have again lost our British Seas; by which, *scilicet intra Maria Britannica*, though may be the boundary, as to the capture, is not so exactly fixed, our sovereignty is preserved, and this is more necessary in the treaty of commerce, because in that of peace, the suspension of arms has superseded the usual article, in which the
British

British Seas are mentioned ; this has happened, I believe, from our having at Utrecht, followed the scheme of a treaty of commerce between Holland and France, in which, from the Naze to the Soundings, is always the first boundary.

Upon perusal of some other articles, you may possibly find some other cautions taken ; that the Admiralty used to object to article 21, our ships to have passports, to be renewed every year, nay, every voyage ; a specification of the merchandise, a declaration of the person to whom the goods belong ; does not this subject us to too nice a search upon what we have always called our own seas, and to minute chicaneries in the Admiralty Court ? And so the 22d and 23rd.

Nisi certis indicis suspectæ fuerint.

I leave this, my Lord, to your consideration, if there be any thing in what I write, it may very easily be remedied, there being nothing to be proposed but what is already yielded, as to the seas, and only some things to be retrenched from the minutias in some other articles, which France will easily agree.

In

In all cases, this is only Matthew to Henry.

Pray get me a word of answer from my Lord Treasurer, as to what I have writ to you about my own affairs, and if I am to be at the renunciation; of which we wrote so much by last, that I had not time to tell you in my own hand, that I am ever,

My Lord, &c.

M. PRIOR.

From Mr. Prior.

MY LORD,

Versailles, the 7th March, 1713.

AFTER what the Duke of Shrewsbury has writ to my Lord Bolingbroke, there remains nothing but a word from Matt to Henry, and after the *pax sit* with France, I have only to add & *æterna amicitia* with you.

Entries, coaches, horses, liveries, follow very soon; pray agree with Lord Treasurer, as I have already hinted to you, what I am to do, and wherewithal I am to do it; and believe that without any regard to my private satisfaction or ambition, I am ready to
[conform

conform myself to what shall be thought most agreeable to your directions.

You need no apology for not writing to me ; when I see a quire of your dispatching, it is very easy to imagine you are weary, and to wish myself near you, that I might any way ease you.

I do not question but what we send you to-night, will make you forget your labours past, and I most heartily congratulate you upon that peace, which you have so eminently procured and directed, of which hereafter in verse. Your's, my dear Lord, ever,
M. PRIOR.

March 8th.

As the Dukes of Berry and Orleans renounce in person to Spain, in the Parliament of Paris, they are to do the same by proxy in the other Parliaments of this kingdom : Who is to see it performed on her Majesty's part, or is any body ? Do you know that the King of Prussia is dead ?

To

To Mr. Prior.

DEAR MATT,

Whitehall, March 3d, 1712-13.

YOU are very good to consider the situation of your friend, I must not be very happy when I want time to write to you, and to visit Denny.

I have drudged on in the best manner I have been able, through very intricate as well as voluminous business; and I have been comforted with the hopes of having more assistance when I have less to do; but enough of this.

The peace is surely now brought to a conclusion, and if Monsieur de Torcy has writ to the Ministers of his master at Utrecht, as I have done to those of the Queen, we shall soon receive the instruments signed.

I did not, you may be sure, omit to read very distinctly to the Queen that paragraph of my Lord Duke's letter wherein he does that justice to your merit which I know you deserve; the Queen was very sensible of your services, and is really I think disposed to give the proofs you could wish for, of this disposition. My Lord Treasurer I have
attacked

attacked on the same subject; and if I had been able to hunt him to-day, I should have had, as I believe, something to have said to you from him, but I have been tied to my desk till three in the morning, at which hour I am writing to you; I hope before the end of the week to send you an account that may be to your satisfaction.

Pray make my most humble services acceptable to my Lady Duchess, and intercede with my Lord Duke to forgive the length of my letters to him.

You have been a kind friend to Monsieur Calandrini, whose circumstances are very unhappy, and who really deserves better fortune. I beg of you to continue the same good-nature. I believe he has had a late stroke, which puts him still more in need of the good offices of those who are able to serve him.

I doubt I am in debt to Madame Feriole and her Brother the Abbé; I will soon discharge it; in the mean time I am not forgetful of their commands.

I know you will make my compliments of course where they are due, and I therefore

fore say nothing particular to you upon that subject.

What think you of a medal, where Britain gives an olive-branch to Time, and this motto inscribed, *Longum diffundet in ævum*; or of this, Britain is seated on a throne, arms, trophies, &c. at her feet, the motto, *Compositis venerantur armis* *.

Adieu, my good friend; I am, &c.

BOLINGBROKE.

Could you in an easy hour drop a word to my Lord Duke on behalf of Doctor Carter, Provost of Oriel College in Oxford? The man has a good deal of merit as a scholar and a commonwealth's man, he is ambitious to be one of the Queen's chaplains, and I believe it would be right to make him so.

* This motto was adopted, but the design of the medal was changed. The editor has one of those which he believes were presented by her Majesty's order to the Members of both Houses of Parliament. On one side is the effigy of the Queen, with the usual inscription, Anna D. G. &c. and on the other Britannia holding an olive-branch in the right hand and her spear in the left; in the back ground, a plough at work, a man sowing, and the sea with ships under sail. Round it this motto, *Compositis venerantur armis*. In the exergue, 1713.

From the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Versailles, March 8th, 1713. N.S.

IN obedience to her Majesty's orders, received in your Lordship's letters of the 17th and 18th of February, O.S. I have acted, as the memorial *, and the copy of the letter

* “ *Pour finir le Traité de Paix & de Commerce entre la Grande Bretagne & la France.*

“ LA Reine consent que le mot *Electricum* soit omis, pourvu que sa Majesté Très Chrétienne donne une déclaration, qu'elle est prête à reconnoître la maison d'Hanover pour Electorale lorsque cet Electeur fera sa paix avec la France & l'Espagne. La Reine croit que pour prévenir toutes les différences qui pourroient naître sur l'étendue & la liberté de pêcher sur la côte d'Acadie, il sera nécessaire qu'une distance précise soit nommée, c'est pourquoi sa Majesté insiste sur la spécification de 30 lieues. Sa Majesté persiste aussi à refuser aux François la liberté de vendre leurs *bona immobilia* dans les Pays cédés & restitués.

“ A la considération de sa Majesté Très Chrétienne, la Reine consent que dans les pays cédés ou restitués, les habitans Catholiques Romains, qui demeureront sous le gouvernement de la Reine, jouiront du libre exercice de leur Religion, autant que les lois & constitutions du royaume (de la Grande Bretagne) le permettent.

“ COMMERCE. *Article 5.*

“ *In re autem religionis* : La Reine s'entend que cette liberté soit réciproque de part & d'autre. Sa Majesté la laisse au choix du Roi, ou de le faire insérer ou de l'omettre. *In quacunque occasione* : Sa Majesté consent que les autres points du commerce, qui restent encore indécis, seront examinés par des Commissaires qui seront nommés de part & d'autre.

“ PORTUGAL.

“ Comme la Reine est bien assurée de la part du Roi de Portugal, que ce Prince est dans le dessein de signer en même-tems que sa Majesté, pourvu qu'il ait une satisfaction entière sur les points suivans, elle insiste, que la France & l'Espagne s'engageront

ter † written thereupon to Utrecht, which I send you inclosed, will particularly explain;
in

geront à ne point inquiéter les domaines, territoires, ni les sujets du Roi de Portugal, soit en Europe ou dans les Indes, sous quelque prétexte qu'il puisse être. Que les traités faits, par provision, avec le Roi de Portugal seront convertis en traité définitif, dans lequel sera aussi stipulé & accordé, que pour mieux assurer aux Portugais la paisible jouissance de leurs colonies en Amérique, les François désisteront de toute prétension à la liberté de navigation sur la rivière des Amazons, & que le rivage de cette rivière, tant du côté septentrional que méridional, appartiendra désormais aux Portugais. Comme aussi ils rentreront dans la possession des pays qu'ils étoient obligés de quitter en vertu du traité provisionel, pour en jouir dès-à-présent, sans y être en aucune manière inquiétés de la part des François. Que les limites entre les possessions des Portugais établies, comme il est ci-dessus énoncé, & celles que les François pourroient avoir sur les mêmes côtes, seront réglées & déterminées de telle manière que de prévenir tout sujet de dispute qui y puisse naître à l'avenir. En considération de ces articles accordés, & de la satisfaction que le Roi de Portugal prétend de la part de l'Espagne, à l'égard de la colonie du Sacrament, & de ce qui reste à liquider entre ces deux couronnes sur quelques dettes de l'assiento, dont on ne disconvient pas, sa Majesté Portugaise désistera de toute prétension à l'égard de la barrière sur quelques places qui soient sur le continent de l'Espagne. Et la Reine deviendra garande des conditions de paix entre la France, l'Espagne, & le Portugal.

“ L'ELECTEUR DE BAVIERE.

“ Comme la Reine persiste toujours dans la résolution d'effectuer tout ce qui dépend d'elle, en faveur de l'Electeur de Bavière, selon ce qu'elle a promis de faire en considération de sa Majesté Très Chrétienne, outre les avantages dont ce Prince doit jouir, en vertu de la proposition faite le 7^{me} Décembre, 1712, par le Comte de Strafford; la Reine offre de nouveau, que le dit Electeur jouira de la souveraineté de Luxembourg jusqu'à ce qu'il aura satisfaction sur ses prétensions à l'égard du traité d'Ilmersheim, sous ces deux conditions: (1.) Que la décision en soit remise au jugement des arbitres désintéressés, & la Reine souhaitant que cette affaire soit terminée au plutôt & à l'amiable, se content d'être du nombre des arbitres. (2.) Que Luxembourg sera obligé de recevoir garnison comme Charleroi & Namur. Voici tout ce que la Reine est en état

in which I hope I have had the good fortune to succeed so entirely, as that no obstructions

de proposer en faveur de cet Electeur, mais s'il arrive dans le cours de la négociation, que l'Empereur propose quelque chose de plus agréable à l'Electeur, sa Majesté y donnera très volontiers la main.

“ POUR LES ETATS-GENERAUX.

“ Comme la Reine a déjà consenti de renvoyer la discussion des quatre espèces à la détermination des Commissaires après la paix, sa Majesté entend que les Etats en feront de même : les places de St. Amand & Mortagne demeureront à la France, à condition qu'à cette dernière on ne fasse point d'écluse ni de fortification ; & comme la Reine s'est évertuée à satisfaire aux demandes de la France, du côté de Tournay, elle s'assure que de celui d'Ypres, on donnera une satisfaction mutuelle aux Etats-Généraux. Voici tout ce qui reste pour achever le plan général de la paix ; & comme la Reine a fait tout ce qu'elle a pu, pour mener ce grand ouvrage à sa dernière perfection, elle ne doute point que le Roi Très Chrétien n'en agisse de même. C'est avec beaucoup de satisfaction que la Reine s'aperçoit que ce peu qui est encore indécis, ne contient rien d'essentiel ; elle se persuade que le Roi Très Chrétien sera aussi dans le même sentiment, & qu'il prendra une résolution conforme aux souhaits de la Reine. La prudence consommée du Roi prévoit facilement que de la conséquence de cette résolution dépendent ces deux grandes alternatives, ou que la Reine d'une côté sera contrainte après tous ses soins pour accélérer la paix, d'en parler à son parlement comme d'un événement incertain, & de demander à ses sujets les levées suffisantes pour soutenir la guerre, en cas que les négociations de la paix ne sortissent leur effet désiré ; ou de l'autre côté, qu'elle sera en pouvoir de déclarer à ses peuples qu'elle se trouve en état de les soulager des dépenses nécessaires de la guerre, & qu'elle va signer la paix avec sa Majesté Très Chrétienne. On pourra ajouter que la Reine est si fortement persuadée de la facilité que ces propositions trouveront auprès de sa Majesté Très Chrétienne, qu'elle a déjà donné ses ordres particuliers à ses Plénipotentiaires à Utrecht de signer la paix immédiatement après que le Duc de Shrewsbury les aura averti que tout sera ajusté ici de la manière proposée.

“ A Versailles, le 7me Mars, 1713.

(Endorsed) “ *Réglement des points indécis, accordé.*”

† Copy

structions can remain to the concluding and signing the peace.

I must

† *Copy of the Duke of Shrewsbury's letter to the Lords Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht, inclosed to Lord Bolingbroke.*

“ MY LORDS,

“ Versailles, March 7th, 1713.

“ UPON the directions which I received from the Queen of the 17th and 18th of February, O.S. by which her Majesty explained her ultimate resolution on the points which remained unsettled, in the general plan of peace, as well in relation to her own interests, as to those of her allies, I have conferred with Monsieur de Torcy, and for the help of his memory, as well as to avoid any mistake which may happen in a matter of so great importance, I gave him a paper, containing every point in which her Majesty demanded satisfaction; a copy of which paper I send to your Excellencies inclosed; it is with great satisfaction that I go on to tell your Excellencies that Monsieur de Torcy having laid the whole before the King his master, his Majesty deliberated upon it this morning in council; and has entirely agreed to every particular thereof, upon which I give you the earliest notice, as I am advised from Lord Bolingbroke to do; that in conforming to those orders and powers, which he tells me your Excellencies have received from him, you may without farther delay conclude and sign the treaties, as well of peace as of commerce, between her Majesty and that Crown, as I presume the Ministers of Portugal, Holland, and Savoy will do at the same time; besides these, your Excellencies will likewise invite the Plenipotentiaries of all the Princes engaged in the alliance to sign their respective treaties, acquainting them with her Majesty's determination; and that she has taken a provisional care that such of them as may not be ready to sign at the same time as your Excellencies, shall have a term allowed them till the 1st of June, N.S. for their coming in upon the plan as already agreed to at Utrecht, and the contents of the inclosed paper.

“ There are two points of which the King spoke immediately to me, thinking, as he expressed it, that justice was not done him upon them; one, in regard to the *bona immobilia* in our own treaty, the other as to the navigation of the River of Amazons, which concerns Portugal. I do not trouble your Excellencies with the arguments of this Court upon these heads, because you have had enough of them from the French Plenipotentiaries, but upon the whole I am glad to tell you, that

I must observe to your lordship, that while the French submit the article of the *immobilia* to her Majesty's determination, they are so fully convinced of the justice of their pretensions, that they seem not to doubt, but that her Majesty's equity will redress them before the article comes to be ratified; I send you the inclosed papers ‡ which I receive

that the peace should be longer delayed, this King consents they shall be submitted to the Queen; reserving to himself the liberty of laying before her Majesty the justice of these pretensions, that in case she may think fit to recede in any part from what he esteems rigorous in these two articles, they may be explained or altered between the signing and the ratifying of the peace, which being now brought so near to its conclusion gives me a new occasion of congratulating your Excellencies upon it.

“ I cannot conclude this subject without mentioning what has been just recommended to me, by order of his most Christian Majesty, in behalf of the Prince of Epinoy, as mentioned in the inclosed memorial, of which you will hear more particularly from the French Plenipotentiaries the justice of his cause, and your Excellencies' willingness to assist a great family oppressed in this long process, will be sufficient arguments for your using your kind interposition in their behalf: this having made no difficulty, as to all the acts mentioned in your Excellencies' letter of the 1st instant, Monsieur de Torcy tells me that he, by this courier, sends orders to the French Plenipotentiaries to sign them, and I shall immediately dispatch a messenger with the packet from Count Sinzendorf to Mareschal Staremburg, in a letter to Sir John Jennings, together with the attested copies of the two letters from the Earl of Dartmouth to that Admiral. I am, &c.

“ SHREWSBURY.”

‡ *Mémoire de Monsieur de Torcy, touchant les bona immobilia.*

“ IL est ordinaire dans les traités, même dans les capitulations de places, de laisser aux habitans des lieux qui changent de

ceive from Monsieur de Torcy on that head, and I suppose you will have the same from the Duke d'Aumont.

I hope

de maîtres la liberté de sortir, de transporter ailleurs leurs effets, de disposer de leurs biens, & de les vendre, soit meubles soit immeubles; le traité de paix que le Roi fait avec la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, ayant pour but principal d'établir une union parfaite entre les deux nations, ne doit pas contenir à l'égard des François des clauses plus rigoureuses que celles des traités ordinaires.

“ On veut cependant retrancher aux habitans des lieux, que le Roi laisse à l'Angleterre, la même faculté qui est accordée dans tous les traités, & dont on peut rapporter une preuve particulière en citant l'article 11^{me} du traité de Breda; le Roi d'Angleterre, Charles Second, cédant l'Acadie à la France, se réserve, pour les habitans du pays qui voudroient en sortir, la liberté entière de vendre & de disposer, comme il leur plairoit, de tous leurs biens, meubles & immeubles, & généralement de tous leurs effets. Le Roi ne prétend aujourd'hui que le réciproque de ce qu'il a fait en 1667, à l'égard de l'Angleterre, & la proposition de sa Majesté est d'autant plus juste qu'il paroît contraire à son équité aussi-bien qu'à celle de la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, de transiger du bien des particuliers, & d'en priver sans cause ceux qui en sont possesseurs légitimes. Cette vérité est si constante, que Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Grande Bretagne à Utrecht avoient toujours fait une distinction des lieux qui seroient cédés, & de ceux qui seroient restitués par la France; ils avoient compris l'île de St. Christophe & l'Acadie sous le nom de lieux cédés & par cette raison il convenoit que dans l'une & dans l'autre les François auroient la liberté de vendre leurs immeubles. Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Grande Bretagne refusoient cette même liberté dans les lieux restitués, savoir la Baie d'Hudson & l'Île de Terre-neuve.

“ Le Roi consentoit à laisser aux Commissaires, qui seront nommés après le paix, l'autorité de rétablir, dans les biens immeubles de la Baie d'Hudson, les Anglois, qui seroient voir, par des titres valables qu'ils en étoient ou propriétaires, ou héritiers de ceux qui avoient possédés ces biens. Quant à ceux de l'Île de Terre-neuve, sa Majesté prétendoit que la ville de Plaisance ayant été bâtie par les François, les maisons de cette ville, & les terres défrichées autour étoient des immeubles,

I hope I have made a right use of the power I had in relation to Bailleul *, when I tell you, that the yielding it proved the greatest means towards the facilitating the whole, except the argument I used, accord-

qui n'avoient jamais appartenu aux Anglois, par conséquent que les habitans devoient avoir une entière liberté d'en disposer. Cette faculté réservée dans tous les traités ne fait aucun préjudice à la souveraineté des Princes à qui les lieux sont cédés, elle assure seulement l'intérêt des particuliers; & comme il est de la justice de laisser à ceux qui n'ont commis aucun crime la libre disposition de leurs biens, le Roi, persuadé de l'équité de la Reine de la Grande Bretagne, remet cette question à la décision de cette Princesse. Sa Majesté ne veut pas cependant qu'une pareille difficulté arrête la conclusion de la paix; elle ordonne à ses Plénipotentiaires de la signer, & de laisser subsister l'article 14 tel qu'il est dressé par Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de la Grande Bretagne, comptant que si la Reine juge à propos de le changer & de le faire dresser conformément à l'article 11 du traité de Breda, ce changement se fera lorsque le traité sera ratifié.

“ Article 11 du Traité de Breda.

“ Si quelques-uns des habitans du pays appelé l'Acadie préférèrent de se soumettre pour l'avenir à la domination du Roi d'Angleterre, ils auront la liberté d'en sortir pendant l'espace d'un an, à compter du jour que la restitution de ce pays sera faite, & de vendre & aliéner leurs fonds, champs & terres, esclaves, & en général tous leurs biens meubles & immeubles, ou en disposer autrement à leur discrétion & volonté, & ceux qui auront contracté avec eux, seront tenus & obligés, par l'autorité du sérénissime Roi Très Chrétienne, d'accomplir & d'exécuter leurs pactions & conventions; que s'ils aiment mieux emporter avec eux, leur argent comptant, meubles, ustensils, & emmener leurs esclaves, & généralement tous leurs biens meubles, ils le pourront faire entièrement sans aucun empêchement ou trouble.”

* Les Etats-Généraux ayant demandé Poperingue & Bailleul, comme dépendans & appartenens à Ipres, le Duc de Shrewsbury selon les ordres de la Reine, & le Marquis de Torcy par ceux de sa Majesté Très Chrétienne, sont d'accord que Bailleul demeure à la France, & que Poperingue soit cédé en faveur des Hollandois.

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ing to your direction, that, in case they complied in the manner they have done, our Plenipotentiaries had orders without farther delay to sign, and her Majesty would open the Parliament, by telling them, she had made peace with France.

The Marquis de Torcy received yesterday the news of the King of Prussia being dead.

I am, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

P.S. Mr. Gilligan writ some time since to Mr. Prior, concerning a sum to be adjusted and paid, in lieu of the remaining number of Negroes, which the French Company think they have a right to transport for two years to come, and by virtue of their assiento contract with the Spaniards; of this Mr. Prior has writ again to Mr. Gilligan: and we desire particularly to know, if it be understood, that we shall pay this *dédommagement*, as the sum may be agreed to, and accordingly I shall speak of it more distinctly to the Ministers here.

From

From the Duke of Shrewsbury.*

MY LORD,

Verfailles, March 8th, 1713, O.S.

I HOPE the last commands I have had from the Queen by your Lordship have been obeyed with success, and that it is now in her Majesty's power to declare her peace is made; you cannot conceive the difficulties we have had to get all your American articles agreed to without alteration; the King told me he was used very hardly in that of the *bona immobilia*, that he was confident the Queen and her Ministers were not rightly apprized of the case; but, however, he would submit it entirely to her Majesty, lay the state of the case before her, and depend upon her justice.

I own freely I have never been able to argue this point well, though I have gained it, because either I do not understand it, or if I do, I incline to think we are in the wrong, the constant practice, according to my observation, being against us; but I will say no more upon this subject, for, right or

* Private.

wrong, it was submitted to her Majesty, which is all that can be asked.

I cannot conclude this letter without telling your Lordship that Mr. Prior has been to the last degree useful to me, and serviceable to her Majesty in all this negociation: I wish you would write and encourage him. When I make my entry, it will look strange if he have not some sort of handsome equipage to appear at the same time; as he lives, he spends a great deal of money, and yet makes no show, for want of a fund to buy something at first that is creditable; pray put Lord Treasurer in mind of him, and pardon this unnecessary additional trouble from, my Lord, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

P.S. I must not omit saying, that I think this King's health is very good for a man of his age, and the Dauphin grows stronger every day.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, March 3d, 1713.

THE messenger whom your Grace dispatched, and who arrived here on Saturday last,

last, returns with most sincere congratulations upon that happy success which you have had, and which might reasonably be expected when the management of the negotiation was in the Duke of Shrewsbury's hands.

By one of the Queen's messengers, who arrived yesterday from Utrecht, I find that my brother got thither very early on Saturday morning; so that my Lords the Plenipotentiaries did probably receive their full powers and ultimate instructions, as soon as they could know from your Grace, that they were to use one, and put the other in execution.

Her Majesty thought fit, as soon as your Grace's letters of the 8th arrived, to order me to renew her commands to the Bishop of Bristol and to the Earl of Strafford; and within three hours after I received your Grace's packet, I dispatched another courier to Holland, with the clearest and most peremptory significations of the Queen's pleasure, which I am able to draw. Thus therefore, my Lord, one part of that promise which your Grace judges to have proved the greatest means towards facilitating
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the whole, has been, as far as lies in the Queen's power, accomplished, and her Plenipotentiaries have had orders, without farther delay, to sign. The other part, that her Majesty would open the Parliament by telling them she had made peace with France, would have been performed this day, could the Queen have resolved to have opened the Session by commission *, or had there not been too much danger of a relapse if she had ventured in person to Westminster. Her state of health is, God be praised ! extremely good ; but as the gout has not entirely spent itself, the least cold might have exposed her Majesty to an illness, and her long confinement to a very warm apartment, made her apprehensive of this consequence. This, my Lord, is the true and only reason why she determined yesterday to put off the Parliament till this day seven-night, though when I told you 1001, 294, 267, 394, 482, 816, 381, so to-day 454 seemed too wise to believe me.

* Bolingbroke was of opinion that the Parliament should sit ; they had prorogued it several times, and were not then certain that the peace would be signed in time for the meeting ; therefore they were no forwarder than at the first prorogation, and many were the grumblers, and great the suspense of the nation.

The Queen has begun to take the air, she will continue to do so, whenever the weather is in the least favourable, and I make no doubt but on the 10th she will, without any risk to her health, carry the glad tidings of peace to her two Houses.

The Duke d'Aumont has just put a pretty long memorial into my hands, which consists of three parts; communications of the points agreed to, whereon nothing need be said to your Grace; arguments against our demand of the *bona immobilia*, and representations concerning the dangerous situation of the King of Sweden's affairs: on the first of these two last articles, I have little to say, no answer being yet returned to me, from those to whom the consideration of this matter is by her Majesty referred. In general, I may tell your Grace, and your Grace may tell Monsieur de Torcy, that the Queen will readily do whatsoever shall appear equitable and just towards the softening of this demand.

The last proposition is a matter of very great intricacy; the Queen sees very well what the drift 492, 670, 303, 508, 347, 282, 320, is in pressing her so warmly upon it; and their zeal on this occasion will inspire none
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to her Majesty ; but there are motives of another nature which will occur to your Grace, and which there is no need of my suggesting, to induce her Majesty to exert herself in another manner than she has hitherto been able to do in the affairs of the North.

I am at this time employed, with the assistance of Mr. Whitworth, in forming a memorial, wherein the true state of the Queen's engagements, and of the steps taken by the parties in the Northern war, will appear. The former of these were entered into mostly to serve the turns of the last war, and are accordingly inconsistent with, and even repugnant to each other. But I hope some observations which are to be made upon these, and the whole tenour of the latter, will enable us to show that the Queen is at full liberty to act as a common friend in northern affairs. Your Grace, however, sees, that till this state is formed, and till her Majesty's resolutions are thereupon taken, no particular measure can be declared for. We might otherwise engage ourselves anew into such a labyrinth as we are endeavouring to get out of.

In the mean time, it may not be improper

per for your Grace to say to Monsieur de Cronstroom *, who will certainly solicit you upon this head, and even to the Ministers of France, that her Majesty has given orders for a very strong squadron to be got ready, which will, in a short time, be able to act in the Baltic. The inclosed papers† which I have the honour

* The Swedish Minister, at Paris.

† *Observations on the sixth and thirty-second articles of the Asiento Contract.*

“ Sixth article.—As the said Company have reason to fear, that in case of war they may be interrupted or impeded in the importation of the said negroes, and that they expose themselves to an evident danger of losing their ships and loading, his Catholic Majesty declares, that during the continuance of the war, the said Company shall not be obliged to import more than 3000 negroes, pieces of India, each year; and his Majesty leaving the said Company a latitude of importing the remaining 1800, to make the complement 4800, they have a liberty to import yearly in the following years; and if, by any other accident, they cannot furnish the said number of 3000 negroes yearly, they shall likewise have liberty to import them in the following years, making good the numbers they wanted to complete; but the said Company shall, nevertheless, be obliged to pay to his Catholic Majesty the sum of 300,000 livres Tournois for the duties of the said 3000 negroes, pieces of India, every six months, or half-yearly payments, for each year, during the continuance of the war, whether they furnish them or not; and if they do furnish above the said 3000 negroes, pieces of India, they shall pay the duties for the overplus in the manner above explained.”

And in the margin of the said sixth article is written—“ I add, that if, during the ten years the treaty is to continue, the war shall not cease, and that it shall hinder the said Company to furnish the said quantity of negroes they are obliged to by the present treaty, they shall, notwithstanding, be obliged to pay

honour to transmit to your Grace, contain the best, and indeed the only answer which I can

pay entirely the duties to his Majesty; but they shall have the liberty to fulfil their contract during the three years that his Majesty gives them to regulate and determine their accounts, and to withdraw all the effects that belong to them, without their being obliged to pay any other duties whatsoever."

"Thirty-second article.—The said treaty being finished and accomplished, his Catholic Majesty grants to the said Company the term of three years, for settling all their accounts, withdrawing their effects from the said Indies, and rendering to his said Majesty his final account; and during the said three years, the said Company, their Agents, and Commissaries, shall enjoy the same privileges and franchises which are granted them during the term of the present treaty, for the free entrance of their vessels into all the ports of America, and to withdraw their effects without their being liable to any charge or restriction whatsoever."

"By the 32d article.—The French Guinea Company have three years given them after the expiration of their contract, for settling all their accounts, withdrawing their effects, and rendering to his Catholic Majesty his final account; with free liberty of entering the ports of America, for withdrawing their effects, which does not give them a power of introducing negroes, during these three years.

"But in regard of the reservation added to the sixth article, they are equitably entitled to import, during the three years, what was wanting of the numbers of 4800 negroes yearly.

"Yet in adjusting this, many difficulties will lie on the French Company:

"1st, The deficiency of the numbers must appear by authentic certificates from all the ports of the Spanish West Indies.

"2dly, One year of the three is almost expired.

"3dly, Without carrying of negroes, the sending of ships to withdraw the effects only, will not defray the charge.

"It seems just to the concerned, that her Britannic Majesty doth agree with the Kings of France and Spain, and the Guinea Company of France, that upon authentic proofs of the value of their effects abroad, and proper authorities given for recovery thereof, her Majesty do answer the adjusted value in Europe.

"In like manner, as to the deficient negroes to complete the

can give to the difficulty Mr. Gilligan wrote some time since to Mr. Prior about. Your Grace will therefore please to let Mr. Prior forward the same to this gentleman, and to speak accordingly to the Ministers where you are. I take it for granted the French do not think of failing any more to the Spanish West Indies, under pretence of fetching the effects away which belong to the Guinea Company, since we agreed long ago to take off this difficulty by purchasing them at a reasonable valuation.

Your Grace will receive herewith the copy * of a dispatch which the Plenipotentiaries

the contract, That the reasonable profit, all charges and risque considered, usually made in the Spanish West Indies be adjusted and answered by her Majesty; regard being had to the duties already answered by his Catholic Majesty, by the Company. And the power of introducing the deficient number being transferred to her Majesty, to avoid the clashing and interfering of the old and new assiento, which otherwise will turn to the prejudice of both.

" I submit whether it would not be of service, what the Duke of Shrewsbury forwards a copy of this dispatch to Mr. Gilligan."

* " MY LORD,

" AYANT travaillé tous ces jours avec Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de France, pour dresser les articles du traité de paix à faire entre sa Majesté Très Chrétienne & son Altesse Royale, nous avons rencontré de leur part des difficultés essentielles, auxquelles nous ne nous attendions pas, & n'avions aucun sujet de nous attendre.

" 1. Ils refusent de mettre dans le traité, que son Altesse Royale

tiaries of the Duke of Savoy sent me; the difficulties therein mentioned are such as I should

Royale pourra prendre la possession de Vigevinasco, en cas qu'entre ici & la paix sa Majesté Impériale n'aie pas donné à son Altesse Royale la réelle possession de l'équivalent.

“ 2. Ils refusent constamment de reconnoître ce droit de la Maison de Savoye, immédiatement après celle d'Autriche, à la succession des états de la Monarchie d'Espagne, qui tomberont par cette paix en partage à l'Empereur.

“ 3. Ils prétendent avec insistance, que son Altesse Royale ne pourra point fortifier dans les vallées & lieux que le Roi Très Chrétien offre de donner en échange de la principauté de Barcelonette que le Roi demande; & qu'il sera seulement permis à son Altesse Royale de fortifier Exilles & Fenestrelles, & la Vallée de Pragelas.

“ Par rapport au premier point, vous savez, my Lord, que par les réitérées assurances, que sa Majesté la Reine a eu la bonté de faire donner à son Altesse Royale, & par la manière dont sa Majesté s'est toujours expliquée avec la France, les cessions portées par le traité de 1703, entre sa Majesté Impériale & son Altesse Royale doivent à la paix sortir leur plein & entier effet, comme il est porté par le traité d'alliance entre la Reine & son Altesse Royale; vous savez qu'il n'a tenu & qu'il ne tient, qu'à l'Empereur de donner l'équivalent du Vigevinasco d'une manière très avantageuse pour ses intérêts, en acceptant la proposition du marquisat de Final, & en remettant à son Altesse Royale.

“ Vous comprenez aisément, que les cessions portées par le traité de 1703, ne sorteroient plus leur plein & entier effet à la paix, si après qu'entre ici & ce tems-là l'Empereur auroit refuser toutes les propositions à lui avantageuses pour donner un équivalent, il n'étoit pas lié à donner Vigevinasco même, & son Altesse Royale étant de nouveau renvoyé à un équivalent indéfini, n'auroit plus l'entière exécution de son traité dans le tems porté par le traité même, & la cour de Vienne viendrait à son but d'avoir la paix sans exécuter le traité. Sur le second point vous aurez la bonté, my Lord, de vous souvenir que la succession de la maison de Savoye, immédiatement après celle d'Autriche, aux états de la Monarchie d'Espagne, qui par la prochaine paix resteraient à l'Empereur, a toujours été considérée par la Reine comme le point le plus essentiel à la justice due au traité d'alliance, que son Altesse Royale a avec sa Majesté, & aux précautions nécessaires pour la durée de la paix, l'équi-

should hope could not retard the great work of peace. In two of them, France seems to have

libre en Europe; aussi dans son traité sa Majesté a trouvé bon de s'y engager comme pour fait propre, & dans le cours de cette négociation, elle a eu la bonté de faire assurer son Altesse Royale par moi, Comte Maffei, & par moi, Comte Mellaredé, que dans les traités de paix ce droit de succession seroit maintenu & reconnu.

“ C'est en suite de ces sentimens & assurances de la Reine, que moi, Comte Mellaredé dans les points que j'eus l'honneur de vous remettre, my Lord, & sous l'article des Garanties pour lesquelles dans les traités de la prochaine paix, le Roi Très Chrétien doit s'unir à sa Majesté, j'ai marqué la garantie pour ce droit de succession, & la demande fut trouvée raisonnable par les Seigneurs du Conseil.

“ Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de France disent, qu'ils ne peuvent pas reconnoître le testament de Philippe IV, qui est opposée & destructif de celui de Charles II. Cette difficulté est d'abord aplanie par l'offre, que nous faisons de nous contenter que dans le traité de paix, il ne soit point parlé du dit testament de Philippe IV, mais seulement qu'il soit dit que la maison de Savoye succédera immédiatement après celle d'Autriche.

“ Pour ce qui regarde le troisième point, il est de fait que lorsque le Roi Très Chrétien a fait proposer à my Lord Duc de Shrewsbury, & ensuite à nous ici, l'échange de la Vallée de Barcelonette, il en a fait faire la proposition, sans aucune restriction ni condition onéreuse, comme vous saurez, my Lord, aussi-bien que nous; ce seroit donc une nouveauté que de vouloir imposer une telle condition, qui en bornant contre les règles naturelles l'autorité souveraine, ne convient point aux pays que l'on cède en souveraineté, surtout, lorsque l'on demande en échange des pays supérieurs en valeur, & qui n'ont point une supériorité limitée.

“ Ajoutez, nous vous en prions, à cela, que les vallées que son Altesse Royale demande, sont des vallées jugées par la Reine nécessaire comme en effet elles le sont, pour cette sûreté du Piémont, que le Roi Très Chrétien a promis à la Reine, & la Reine à son Altesse Royale; or la partie la plus essentielle de la sûreté, surtout vers une puissance supérieure, consiste à être en état de fortifier selon que les occasions l'exigent, & par conséquent ce n'est plus la même sûreté, si cette partie si essentielle y manque, surtout s'agissant que les Alpes séparant ces vallées

have no concern at all, and in the third, no very just reason to be stiff. The Emperor is to give his Royal Highness an equivalent for the Vigevanasco, to which he has never shown much inclination, and after the conduct which the Duke of Savoy has observed in the negociation of peace, he will probably show less than ever. Why, therefore, should France refuse to stipulate, as the Queen will do, that either this equivalent shall be given before the peace, or that his Royal Highness shall be at liberty to take possession of

vallées d'avec la France. Les fortifications qui sont nécessaires pour la défensive, ne peuvent jamais servir pour l'offensive, & ne sauroient donner aucune juste alarme. Son Altesse Royale ne peut pas douter de la bonté, de la justice, & de l'appui efficace de la Reine dans les points si essentiels, & c'est ce qui nous oblige, my Lord, à supplier très humblement sa Majesté par votre canal, de vouloir avoir la bonté d'envoyer ses ordres à my Lord Duc de Shrewsbury, à Paris, & à Messieurs ses Plénipotentiaires ici, afin, que les articles du traité de paix à faire entre le Roi Très Chrétien & son Altesse Royale & dans les susdits points soient, sans plus de difficulté, arrêtés par la Cour de France, suivant les justes sentimens & intentions de sa Majesté.

“Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de France dépêchent ce soir ou demain, un courier à leur Cour, avec le projet de notre traité à faire, & il seroit très utile si my Lord Duc de Shrewsbury pouvoit recevoir ses ordres, & les exécuter avant que le dit courier de France fut renvoyé ici; d'autant plus, que Messieurs les Plénipotentiaires de France se sont expliqués, que ce points devant être décidés par le Roi, Monsieur le Duc de Shrewsbury devoit lui en parler. Nous avons l'honneur d'être, avec beaucoup de respect, my Lord, votre humble, &c.

Le Comte MAFFEI,

Utrecht, ce 7^{me} Mars, 1713.

MELLAREDE.

the province of Vigevanasco itself. France has already consented to the substitution of the right of the House of Savoy to Spain and the West Indies, after the Philippine line; this done, it is not a little odd to hear the French Ministers object to the substitution of the same person's right to the dismembered parts of the Spanish monarchy, after the Austrian line. Will they pay a greater compliment to an Austrian than a Bourbon Prince, or do their politics tend to leave no prospect of ever reuniting the Spanish dominions?

When the article was under debate, some time ago, of allowing to the Duke of Savoy, notwithstanding the treaty of Turin, a liberty to fortify; the King of France objected only to the exercise of this liberty, in the case of Pignerol. His Royal Highness acquiesced under this exception, and we did not expect to have the same farther extended. France has, on one side of the Mont Genevre, Briançon; why Savoy should not fortify on the other, is hard to imagine, and if, the difference about the equivalent for the barrier being over, this dispute is to succeed, there will be no end of treating. But I ask
pardon

pardon for saying so much to your Grace, upon a matter which is, perhaps, at this time decided. I am, &c.

BOLINGBROKE.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, March 3rd, 1712-13.

I PROPOSED dispatching this courier, and my Lord Dartmouth agreed with me, not only that we might acknowledge the receipt of your Grace's letters of the 8th, N.S. but that we might likewise acquaint you with the true reason, since several false ones will to be sure be given, why the Queen does not open the Parliament this day, as she intended to have done.

On Sunday morning the Duke d'Aumont came to see me, and communicated to me a memorial, of which I gave your Grace an account in the other letter. He let himself in immediately to complain that he had been misrepresented at his own Court. Among a multitude of words, the only clear propositions I could understand were these: That he doubted the Duke of Shrewsbury

and Mr. Prior had made him pass for one who took his information from the refugees, and who was ill with the Treasurer and your servant. I could not forbear telling him, that these were indeed very strong objections to his conduct, and such as I hoped and believed he would never give occasion for, as I was sure he would never have any reason to complain of the two persons last named. That our country was hard to be known, and that indeed a stranger, who took it into his head to beat out new ways, run a great *risque de s'égarer*. That I was assured your Grace and Mr. Prior too, had done him all imaginable justice, and that these reports were so easily destroyed, that he need give himself no farther concern about them.

I confess to your Grace, I was very well pleased with this conversation, because it gives me hopes that he will take warning, and not explore new tracts, instead of walking on in those, which hitherto have carried us on successfully enough.

I think the Whigs seem to give up the success of this session. Their principal heroes are gone the circuit; Nottingham is pelted from all quarters. I cannot help saying, in
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the fullness of my soul, to your Grace, that if we do not establish ourselves, and the true interest of our country, it is the Queen's and Treasurer's fault. The clamour of Jacobitism seems to be the only resource of our enemies, and I am sorry to tell you, that the Duke of Argyle gives too affectedly into that poor artifice.

You see, my Lord, how far the pleasure of corresponding with your Grace carries me, and how impertinent your indulgence renders me.

Private as well as public letters, by the same courier; and a multitude of cypher, properly or improperly used, will, I doubt, give you a surfeit of him who is,

My Lord, your Grace's, &c.

To Mr. Breton.

Whitehall, March 6th, 1712-13.

I ENTER into all the uneasiness which you feel, and which you foresee at the Court where you are. The Queen does so too, and I will answer that you shall be master of staying or being recalled, as you think most agreeable to your interest and to your inclination

inclination. But let me conjure you to see how the new King sets out*: if he takes a good pli, have your share of merit; if he takes a bad one, let that be the reason of your leaving Berlin. As to your rank, and as to other crosses which you have had, and which my feeble interest has not been able to prevent, I can only say, that I will be the first to advise you to come back, to sell, or retire, if they are not removed or repaid. But I have bore very severe trials of the same nature, and am thoroughly convinced that in the chase of fortune, and a life of business, a man must go through bad as merrily as through good way to arrive at his journey's end.

Mr. Whitworth tells me, he has writ to you; if I have not done it sooner, you must excuse me on account of the strange, and I believe unprecedented state that I have lived in for some time. It would appear affected to speak of it now; some time or other I

* Frederick, the late King, was the first who was acknowledged as such. He laid the foundation of that military power and discipline, which, to the succeeding monarchs, were so highly beneficial; but, for his greater renown, it is recorded, that he was a good Prince, and the last action of his life, was the dictating a letter to his Minister, Count Ilgen, in favour of the Protestant sufferers in France.

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hope we shall. Adieu. I am, with a faithful
and sincere heart, dear Willy,

Your's, &c.

To the Earl of Orrery.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, March 6th, 1712-13.

WE hope every day to receive the peace
signed, and probably before this letter can
reach your hands, you will have heard that
it is so.

I know your Lordship's concern for the
length and suspense of the negociation. I
must therefore be sensible of the pleasure
with which you will hear that it is con-
cluded.

The Queen's health is, God be praised!
very good; but the gout not having entirely
spent itself, her Majesty thought fit to defer
till Tuesday next, to open the Parliament
for fear of cold, which might have repelled
the humour.

I cannot foresee, besides the clamour of
Jacobitism, and of the danger of Popery,
which, except a few old women, nobody is
in earnest about, any theme for Lord Not-
tingham's,

tingham's eloquence to display itself upon; and I think the session will be quiet and short. The peace made, and the nation settled on this new bottom, I hope we shall feel the good effects of a new scene of affairs at Court. Till then we are referred; till then, perhaps, it is reasonable to refer us.

As to your Lordship's private affairs, I have not been unmindful of them, but as I make it a rule to say nothing to my friends, when I have not a certain answer to give, your Lordship must excuse me if I am at present silent on this head. I think you will very soon be at liberty to come over, and in the mean time, I will employ your proxy as I judge your Lordship would do your own vote. I am, &c.

To the Earl of Strafford.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, March 19th, 1712-13.

I CANNOT forbear troubling your Lordship with a private letter, though you must be at this time in a greater hurry than ever.

It is, I think, necessary that your Lordship should know the present state of things
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at home in so critical a conjuncture ; and I believe you will be of opinion that they must, to a certain degree, be respected in all governments, more especially in a government like ours. The making of the peace, my Lord, will vex none but those who are vexed already, and of whom I hope the resolution is taken of never striving to please ; besides which it is to be considered, that as the conclusion of your work will exasperate, so it will disarm and dispirit.

On the other hand, the long suspense of the treaty gives hopes to this faction, and consequently increases their clamour, and whets their rage ; whilst those who wish well to their country, and who, thanks be to God ! are a vast majority in every part of the kingdom, grow tired with expectation, and uneasy under the delay.

If all the parties concerned are ready at once to sign, that, to be sure, is most eligible. But if the Queen's peace is made, and the terms for her allies ascertained, you will find the sense of the nation to be, that we have stayed long enough, and that it was time to resolve to stay no longer. Upon the whole matter, we should ward against
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the objections of your friends, our enemies will never want any.

I flatter myself that these last orders and powers will remove all difficulties, and dissipate all doubts, and that we shall very soon receive from your hands the most welcome present that you can make to your Queen and country.

Give me leave to wish your Lordship most heartily joy of Lady Strafford's happy delivery. I hope the next addition to your family will be a son, and that he may prove such an one as will follow the example of his father, and carry down without interruption the reputation of your name to posterity. I am, &c.

To the Lord Privy Seal.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, March 19th, 1712-13.

I RECEIVED this morning the honour of your Lordship's private letter of the 28th, N.S. with the public dispatch, and return you my humble thanks for the favourable manner in which you are pleased to accept my endeavours to serve you.

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The person your Lordship is pleased to mention has, I believe, a good insight into trade ; but I have some notion that he was suspected, and, if I remember right, not without some grounds, of carrying on a clandestine trade, during the war, to France. Some thoughts I have had of Mr. Drummond ; and if a way could be found of making the consulship a little more valuable, I believe the post would suit him, as I verily think he would suit the post. Mr. Wood's interest shall be my particular care, and, one way or other, I doubt not the Queen will provide for him.

Give me leave, my Lord, to say a word or two, in this private letter, of public business. We are surrounded with implacable enemies, a faction at home not numerous, but desperate. I wish I had no reason to add to these, our confederates abroad : no condescension, no temper, no moderation can abate the edge of the malice of this league, and till the peace is made, their malice is terrible ; because, God alone can tell what accidents may happen, and they are ready to improve any to the common confusion. The bulk of the nation is declaredly against
these

these people, and is aware of their designs: but then, as it too often happens in a good cause, our friends are apt to cool, which renders them no match for the fury of party agitators, and they languish under the long expectation of what they ardently wish. This is not all. The reasons of the delay of the treaty cannot be exposed to public view, and if they could, few would be competent judges of the validity of them. Whereas, every man will feel the difference of the national expence, and many perhaps will imagine it greater than in truth it will be. The use I would presume to make of these reflections and of divers others, which your Lordship's thoughts will better suggest to you than I can pretend to do, is the necessity either of signing immediately in conjunction with the allies, or of signing on the Queen's part, without staying for them. The first is to be sure best, but the last is infinitely better than a delay of twenty-four hours.

Your Lordships are, it is very true, in the eye of faction, and every step you take, is exposed to the comment of party; but so are those who have the honour to serve with you; we serve together, and, by the grace of

God, we will stand and fall together; of the latter, I think, there is no danger, but by the failure or longer delay of the peace.

If your Lordship could see as nearly as I do, what passes now here, and what the present dispositions of men are, you would the more easily excuse the liberty I take. I hope, however, for your Lordship's pardon, since the frankness I use proceeds from no principle but that of zeal for the Queen's service, and of true respect for your Lordship, to whom, I am, &c.

De Monsieur de Torcy.

A Versailles, le 8me Mars, 1713.

VOUS verrez, Monsieur, par les lettres de Monsieur le Duc de Shrewsbury, que le Roi n'a voulu tirer d'autre avantage du bon état où se trouvent les dispositions faites pour la campagne, que celui d'en prévenir l'ouverture, & de conclure la paix présentement, plutôt que d'attendre à la traiter les armes à la main.

Sa Majesté s'est conformée à tout ce que la Reine a désiré, ainsi le plan de la paix

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générale,

générale, & celui de la paix particulière étant également concertés, rien n'empêche que l'une ou l'autre ne soit incessamment signée à Utrecht, suivant ce que vous me faites l'honneur de me marquer.

Sa Majesté Britannique pourra par conséquent annoncer à son Parlement le fruit des soins qu'elle a pris pour le repos de l'Europe, & contraindre les mal-intentionnés à garder le silence. On ne doute pas ici qu'elle n'en soit absolument maîtresse, & je vous assure, my Lord, qu'il n'y a point d'avis où l'on ajoute plus de foi, qu'à ceux que vous voulez bien donner pour l'avantage réciproque des deux nations. Vous avez trop bien réussi à le procurer, pour avoir aucune défiance de ce qui vient de votre part, & si jamais vous aviez envie de me tromper, vous pourriez jouir long-tems de ce plaisir, avant que j'en eusse le moindre soupçon: je suis en vérité bien éloigné de pareilles idées, & je vous demande encore, à l'occasion de la paix que je compte faite, la continuation de la même confiance & des mêmes marques d'amitié, dont vous m'avez honoré.

Je suis persuadé, my Lord, que la Reine fera contente du consentement général que
le

le Roi donne à tout ce qu'elle a demandé ; mais les malheureux particuliers, qui auront des biens dans les lieux cédés ou restitués, ne le feront guères de la loi que vous leur imposez par l'article 14, si sa Majesté Britannique, remplie d'équité, & instruite des clauses des traités, ne décide pas sur ce point ; comme il y a bien de l'attendre de sa justice.

Je me rapporte à ce que j'ai eu l'honneur de dire sur ce sujet à Monsieur le Duc de Shrewsbury, & à ce qu'il en aura écrit, & j'espère qu'un traité, qui doit faire le bonheur des deux nations, & dont la conduite & la conclusion sont dûes à vos soins, ne renfermera pas la moindre apparence d'injustice.

Je ressens bien vivement, my Lord, l'attention que vous voulez bien donner aux intérêts de Monsieur le Duc de St. Pierre, & je vous assure que je n'ai pas besoin de nouvelles raisons pour fortifier l'attachement que j'ai pour vous, & avec lequel je serai toute ma vie, plus que personne,

Monsieur, votre, &c.

DE TORCY.

A Monsieur de Torcy.

De Whitehall, ce 23^{me} Mars, V.S. 1712-13.

IL faut que je profite de cette occasion, Monsieur, pour vous assurer de mes très-humbles respects, & pour vous dire que les lettres que j'ai reçu d'Utrecht, du 20^{me}, 21^{me}, & 25^{me}, m'avoient presque désespéré; celles du 28^{me} m'ont un peu consolé; je vois par ces dernières que la paix de tout le monde sera faite en même-tems; les conditions que Monsieur de Sinzendorf demande, pour qu'il puisse signer celle de l'Empereur, étant d'une nature à ne pouvoir pas accrocher la négociation.

Monsieur le Duc d'Aumont a été informé, de tems en tems, des prétextes dont on s'est servi, pour différer d'un jour à l'autre la signature des traités entre la Grande Bretagne & la France, il fait aussi les réponses que j'ai données, & les ordres précis & réitérés que j'ai envoyés, de la part de la Reine; ainsi je n'entre pas dans ce détail, vous en ferez déjà instruit.

Monsieur le Duc de Shrewsbury vous communiquera, Monsieur, les ordres que la Reine a donnés, & qu'elle fera observer
touchant

touchant les *bonâ immobilia* des fujets du Roi. Sa Majesté, aura une entière satisfaction là-dessus, & la Reine prendra avec plaisir cette nouvelle occasion de montrer combien les intérêts de la France lui sont à cœur. Elle ne doute point que le Roi de son côté ne veuille jeter un œil de compassion sur ces malheureux qui souffrent dans les galères * ; cette action fera digne du grand cœur, & de la piété du Roi ; elle fera la marque la plus essentielle que sa Majesté puisse donner de sa considération pour la Reine, & elle fermera la bouche à tous ces mauvais discoureurs, qui ne cherchent qu'à noircir l'ouvrage de la paix, & les caractères de tous ceux qui s'en sont mêlés. Je suis, &c.

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From the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Paris, March 23rd, 1713, N.S.

I THINK it is proper for your Lordship's information, as well as Lord Treasurer's, to

* In June, 1712, the Queen sent the Marquis de Miramont to Utrecht, upon a special commission in behalf of the French refugees and the Protestants, as well in France in the galleys, as on the Continent.

send you the copy of a letter I received from Lord Lexington ; some of the objections are slight, some are answered by the solemnity with which the whole passed last week in Parliament, and Monsieur de Torcy assures me the renunciations of these Princes were formed and approved in Spain ; however, I ought to observe to you, that the renunciations of the Dukes of Berry and Orleans, having been made before I came hither, and, as I understand, before the draughts were sent to England, which will appear by the dates of them, the solemnity of taking an oath was not observed at that time, which I see was done by the King of Spain ; I mentioned this the other day to Monsieur de Torcy, who seemed not to have remarked whether they had sworn or not, and is not versed in these forms ; but by his answer I am inclined to believe, if that, or any other thing their constitution permits them to do, be yet insisted upon, it will not be denied, in order to give full satisfaction upon this head ; but on the other hand, if the public manner in which these Princes gave their consent in the Parliament, be thought sufficient, I am of opinion nothing new should be asked that were not material,

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material, of which I acknowledge myself a very ill judge, being wholly unacquainted with forms, and having no Civilian here I can depend upon.

It may be proper farther to take notice to your Lordship, that, by letters from Utrecht, I perceive the allies, as well as the French, seem indifferent whether the Emperor, at the conclusion of the peace, should renounce to those parts of the Spanish Monarchy which the King of Spain is to possess, and consequently his Catholic Majesty not renounce to those parts of that monarchy the Emperor is to possess; this seems to be making a peace, and at the same time leaving such seeds for another war, that it is well worth reflection, whether such renunciations on all hands should not be made at a general peace; and the rather, because the renunciations lay down the balance of power in Europe as their foundation; expressing that Spain ought not to be united either to France or the House of Austria; and there is an expression in the Duke of Orleans' renunciation, which in some measure makes the Emperor's renouncing a condition.

This letter being only writ for your Lord-

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ship and Lord Treasurer, I hoped I might have dispatched my public letter to yourself and Lord Dartmouth at the same time; but Monsieur de Torcy's courier calling in haste, I want time, and shall send another to-morrow with the instruments relating to the renunciation; Mr. Prior being now at Versailles upon that business, and till his return I am not fully enough informed to write. I am, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

From the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Paris, March 25th, 1713, N.S.

I AM to acknowledge your Lordship's of the 3rd instant, and am very glad to have your approbation of what I may have done here towards perfecting the peace. I hope your Lordship's orders to Utrecht will have finished the concluding it there; though by letters received from thence since they had orders of the 28th of February, O.S. I find there still remain some difficulties, but such as I hope are already overcome; the first is the referring the consideration of the four species to commissioners, upon which I have to say, that when
I told

I told Monsieur de Torcy her Majesty's resolutions in those words, as you find them in the memorial last agreed to, *comme la Reine a déjà consenti de renvoyer la discussion des quatre espèces à la détermination des Commissionnaires après la paix, sa Majesté entend que les Etats en feront de même*, he alledged, that this stipulation was unnecessary, for the Dutch had already departed from those demands; to which I replied, that in case the thing were so, we had no more to say on that head; but however, that nothing should be altered in the whole memorial, it was agreed that it might stand as it was.

The French Plenipotentiaries in their last letter to Monsieur de Torcy affirm, that the Dutch had departed from the species to be referred, and that, as well the Dutch as our Plenipotentiaries, do still acknowledge that they had departed from that demand; but after having seen the abovementioned clause of the memorial, they insist anew upon the point before given up, taking for pretext, that they made this concession when they expected, or hoped at least, to have all the Châtellenies and dependencies, which they demanded, about Ipres, but that Ballieul being

now given to the French, they think themselves disengaged from their former concession; I give your Lordship this plain account, that the Queen may see how this matter stands, and if it be not already adjusted, that her Majesty may give such orders as she judges proper.

As to the other point of the Elector of Bavaria's returning into the Palatine Electorate, if he is so to do, after the death of the present Elector, and his brother Charles only, or after the extinction of all the brothers and their heirs, Monsieur de Torcy asserts, that that matter has been already settled in the manner that the French Plenipotentiaries affirm, and referred himself thereupon to your Lordship.

The renunciations, as I receive them authentically attested, I have sent one to Lord Lexington, and another to Lord Dartmouth; as I do likewise send to the Lords Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht a third, attested as a true copy.

I have acquainted Monsieur de Torcy with what your Lordship writ me of the method which her Majesty had taken to be informed of *bona immobilia*, with which he does not
doubt

doubt but the King will be very well satisfied, when he informs his Majesty of it.

As to the points of the Vegevanasco, and the right of fortifying, upon which the Savoy Plenipotentiaries write to your Lordship, I understand this King will satisfy his Royal Highness, and has sent orders accordingly to his Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht; but as to the point of succession in the family of Savoy to that part of the Spanish Monarchy which the Emperor is to have, in case of failure in the Austrian line, this Court look upon it as a proposition entirely new, and as what will not appear, throughout the whole course of the negociation, to have been stipulated, or ever demanded; allowing it to be a thing of great consequence, and what may merit a future consideration, they consider as consisting of such various parts and claims, and as a thing at so remote a distance, in which so many people's consent must be formally obtained, that they judge it impracticable to be settled, in a treaty which they think so near being perfected, as to expect every day its being signed.

Mr. Prior has sent to Mr. Gilligan the papers inclosed in your Lordship's of the 3rd,
and

and the paragraph of that letter relating to the affair of the assiento; and before the receipt of your letter, Mr. Prior, in answer to one from Mr. Gilligan, had writ to him to send us more explicitly the state of that matter, as to the sums to be agreed on, to buy off the French effects; Monsieur de Torcy in the mean time assures me, that the thing is in a fair way of being adjusted at Madrid, and is apprehensive it may be embroiled if we enter upon it here, before we hear farther from Spain. I am, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

P.S. I send your Lordship inclosed an account concerning the King of Sweden, which I received last night from his Minister here.

The suspension of arms finishes the 22nd of next month, which I only mention in case they should not sign so soon at Utrecht, that no time may be lost to renew, though I hope there will be no occasion.

To the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Whitehall, March 24th, 1712-13.

I TAKE the opportunity which the departure of this courier gives me, to acknowledge the honour of your Grace's letters of the 23rd and 25th of this month, both which I have read to the Queen, and communicated to my Lord Treasurer.

We really took it for granted here, that the Princes of the blood in France had sworn to their several renunciations of the crown of Spain as King Philip did to his renunciation of the crown of France; and the words at the latter end of the renunciations of the Dukes of Berry and Orleans confirmed this opinion. It is there said, *Nous jurons solennellement sur les évangiles contenus au missel, &c.*

I confess, my Lord, the insertion of these words in the acts, and the omission of the solemnity of the oath, carry something along with them which I do not like; the Queen seemed to be of the same mind: and if I have nothing more particular in command to say to your Grace upon this head, I believe

lieve it is because things are thought so far advanced, that there is hardly time to overhale this proceeding; and in such case perhaps, it were better to take it for granted the Princes have sworn, than to enter into a contest, which may give ground to other people now, and to the French hereafter, to cavil about the validity of these acts. Will your Grace allow me to add my private sentiment? If you find the want of this solemnity may be still supplied previously to the peace, or on the ratifying of it, the Princes, I think, ought to swear, not as if at your Grace's instance they were doing an act which they had before neglected, but as if they took the oath in a proper time and place.

As to the latter part of your Grace's letter of the 23rd, I believe you may remember, my Lord, that Philip some time ago, desired the Emperor might be obliged to renounce to Spain; and the Imperial Court at that time thought they should be able to protract the treaty, and to catch somewhat more in the scramble, by valuing their airy title high, and by insisting on terms before they parted with it. For these reasons, the Spanish

nish Ministers were beat off from this demand then, as the Imperial Ministers now desire to have it not made upon them, so that I fear it will be impracticable to alter this part of the system. The several treaties will make the partition, the several treaties will be sworn to, and if hereafter lust of power, and favourable opportunities, should prevail on some of the parties to invade the others, in spite of the treaties, the same temptations would, I fear, have the same effect, in spite of the renunciations. I would beg leave to add, that the union of France and Spain was so near in prospect, and so terrible in consequence, that nothing less than the measure taken could appear sufficient to prevent it. Whereas, if Philip or his issue, should in time to come attempt to repossess themselves of any dismembered part of Spain's ancient dominions, such a war would be as little formidable to Great Britain perhaps, as any that could arise; and if this Emperor or any future Austrian Prince, should think of conquering Spain and the Indies, he might be laughed at for a madman, but the sound of his trumpets would frighten nobody. Your Grace is so much
used

used to indulge me, that I depend on your goodness to excuse the freedom, with which I throw out these crude thoughts which occur to me.

The account which your Grace gives of the four species, unriddles what I did not understand before. My Lords the Plenipotentiaries write in such a style concerning the interests of Holland, in their letter of the 28th, that this difficulty, as well as all others, we conclude is over; and therefore, the only orders which went last post to Utrecht, are those which your Grace will find in the inclosed copy of my dispatch of Friday last.

In this situation of affairs, I should say nothing on that point of the Elector of Bavaria's returning to the rank of first Elector, and to the Upper Palatinate, did not Monsieur de Torcy refer himself to me, as your Grace is pleased to tell me in your's of the 25th: Monsieur de Torcy should remember, and I am confident Mr. Prior does, that when I was in France, I positively refused to engage for the Queen, in any thing relating to the Elector of Bavaria, farther than the Plenipotentiaries had gone at that time,

time, at Utrecht. If your Grace pleases to compare what is said on this subject, in the second column of the general plan, with the minutes taken at Fontainbleau, August 21st, 1712, you will see this to be fact.

The Queen has all along entrenched herself in the general, and, according to Monsieur Buys, vague proposition. She never would determine for the explication thereof, made by the German Ministers, that the Elector should not return to his rank, and to the Upper Palatinate, till after the extinction of the Rudolphin line, nor for that made by the French Minister, that he should return immediately on the death of the Elector Palatine and his brother Charles, without regard even to the children of the latter. Both sides have frequently applied to the Queen, but both sides have failed in their attempts to engage her to explicit declaration. If the French understand her silence to be an assent to their explication of the general article, the Germans may as well conclude that the same silence is an engagement in their behalf; but enough of this, the Elector of Bavaria has had fair play, and his business goes better than he

had reason to expect, though her Majesty has kept herself free from declarations and engagements, which were not consistent with the measures it became her to keep towards other Princes.

My Lord Treasurer writes to your Grace, concerning the *bona immobilia* of the French, and the liberty of the Galeriens. I have only to acquaint your Grace, that Mr. Moore * is preparing such a scheme as shall effectually answer the desire of his Most Christian Majesty on one head, and we hope the Ministers in France will think of doing the other with an equal good grace. It may, perhaps, be necessary to observe that the Queen does not mean, as I see Monsieur de Torcy, in a letter to Gaultier, states it, to alter the clause in the treaty about immoveables. No, my Lord; as we shall have no stipulation in favour of the Protestants, so neither shall the French have any in favour of their immoveables; but the Queen takes the King's word in one case, and he must take her Majesty's in the other, which your Grace is impowered to give.

* Arthur Moore, a Commissioner of trade and plantations, and principally concerned in framing the treaty of commerce.

I say

I say nothing about Savoy, nor about Mr. Gilligan's letter to Mr. Prior, because we hear from Utrecht and from Madrid, that those matters are over.

The true state of the King of Sweden's affairs, is much worse than his Minister represented them to your Grace; it is high time to think of saving him, in spite of himself; something is doing towards it, but I have not time to enter into that detail.

I must beg leave, before I conclude this long letter, to recommend to your favour a very hard case, which I have writ to Mr. Prior upon. Mr. William Churchill, who has had the honour of your Grace's patronage formerly, and for whom I have had a long kindness, is deeply concerned in it. A letter of attorney, and the vouchers, are sent to Mr. Arbuthnot, who will apply to your Grace, and I once more entreat your favour to the parties concerned. I inclose a memorial on this head for your Grace's information, and am, with the greatest respect, &c.

To Mr. Drummond.

S I R,

Whitehall, March 24th, 1712-13.

ALTHOUGH I have not lately troubled you unnecessarily with any of my letters, yet I have not been unmindful of your interests; I waited an opportunity of acknowledging my personal obligations to you, as well as the essential services which you did the Queen's affairs, at a time when the situation of them was extremely nice, and I think the opportunity now offers itself.

Notwithstanding the alterations made in the barrier of the States-General, by the new treaty, certain it is, that all possible care must be taken, in agreeing at first on prudent regulations, and in preserving these regulations afterwards, or the British commerce to the Spanish Low Countries, will be exposed to great hardships, perhaps to ruin. Commissioners were to meet in Flanders, to adjust, on the behalf of the Queen, the Emperor, and the States-General, such rules and methods as are most proper to preserve and keep things, in respect to trade, on the foot whereon they stood during the reign
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of the late King of Spain. But, my Lords the Plenipotentiaries are of opinion, and her Majesty agrees with them, that this work may be more advantageously and more expeditiously performed at Utrecht, under the influence of the Ministers of the respective parties, than in any other place. I shall therefore send you by Friday's post, her Majesty's commission, under the great seal, to authorize you to undertake and proceed in this business. As the joining any one to you, who is not skilful in affairs of this nature, can never advance, and may prejudice the service; and as I have not any proper person to offer to the Queen, you will be at first singly employed, if hereafter another should be thought of, he may be added by another commission. In the mean while, that no time may be lost, your commission shall be dispatched.

Thus much I have acquainted my Lords the Plenipotentiaries with, but I think it proper to let you know farther, that the Queen is so dissatisfied with Loggan's behaviour, and indeed insufficiency, that he is to be removed, and his post filled by you.

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Mr.

Mr. Laws cannot well be continued, for several reasons, in those countries after the peace, and her Majesty has determined to appoint you her Secretary and Resident at Bruffels, so that these two employments, which are very compatible, and perhaps better placed in one than in two, will, I believe, render your post very agreeable to you.

I was not willing to let this post go, without acquainting you what you are to expect in general; by the next I shall write more particularly on the subject of your commission. Your letter of the 31st, came to my hands last night, for which, I am to return my thanks, and to desire you to be persuaded that at all times and on all occasions, you may depend on the best services of,

Sir, &c.

To the Earl of Orrery.

Whitehall, March 24th, 1712-13.

MY dear Lord, I do not wonder at your impatience to get out of the bad company which you have kept of late. If a man is doomed to struggle with faction, he would, I think

I think, choofe to do it at home, but to go abroad on this errand is intolerable.

The Queen, to whom I opened your Lordship's prefent fituation and your request, is as defirous as you can be, to give up the government into the Emperor's hands, and commands me to let your Lordship know that as foon as you can return home, it is her intention you fhould; but upon your departure from Bruffels, her Majesty would have it known that you return thither no more, and that fhe has withdrawn herfelf from any future fhare in the adminiftration of thofe affairs.

I write to my Lords the Plenipotentiaries upon this fubject, and I take it for granted, your Lordship will hear from them very fuddenly, that the Emperor and States are agreed, as to the terms of the barrier of of the latter, after which fome form of giving up the government to his Imperial Majesty muft, I fuppofe, be obferved, and then your Lordship will immediately, purfuant to the letters which next boat fhall carry to you, take your leave of your feditious fubjects, and haften to the arms of your friends and miftreffes.

We shall wind up our bottoms probably in as little time as you can get ready for your journey hither, and I am sure you would not leave your work, disagreeable as it is, when you are within so few days of concluding it.

The article of trade might have rendered a longer stay in the Netherlands necessary, but we have given another turn to that matter, and instead of appointing the Commissioners to meet in Flanders, where they would have been under your Lordship's direction, they are now to assemble at Utrecht. I inclose an extract of what I write to the Plenipotentiaries for your Lordship's information.

All our accounts from Utrecht, as well as Paris, make us depend so much on having the instruments of the general peace executed in few days, that the Queen determines to receive them before she meets her Parliament, so that the two houses will not sit till Thursday in Easter week, which I take will be the ninth of April.

The peace made, we may hope to know a little quiet, and to see some government established among us; but indeed at present,
amidst

amidst the clamour of faction, the distrust of friends, and the hurry of business equally important and voluminous, no slavery can be equal to that of

Your ever faithful, &c.

I was glad to meet little Lord Broghil * this morning in the Park so well, and in so fair a way of continuing so.

From the Duke of Shrewsbury.

MY LORD,

Paris, March 31st, 1713, N.S.

BY the letters which I have lately received from the Lords Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht, and some copies and abstracts of what they write to you, I observe that their Lordships have a very zealous and commendable intention to endeavour that the signing of the peace may be general, and that they constantly transfer the situation in which the Imperial Ministers are, as to their demands, and the advances they make to render their coming in practicable; this has occasioned the sending several schemes, in

* Eldest son of the Earl of Orrery.

which

which new points are often started, and the interest of some Princes, which we thought settled, are again disputable; and many so essential alterations are proposed, that they must in their own nature, cost a great deal of time to adjust; the effect of this is, that their Lordships send to me to press this Court to agree to several points, in which, having no order from the Queen, nor knowing how far her Majesty may have approved of them, I think I should take too much upon myself if I entered into them; my Lord, in case no alteration is to be made in the scheme already proposed, and the method by which it is to be effected, I think England, Portugal, Holland, Savoy, and Prussia, may in a very short time sign their respective treaties, and the rest of the allies may profit of the term allowed them, if they think fit; but if those who are now ready, shall be obliged to wait for those who are but just beginning to treat, I apprehend the whole may prove, like all things of this nature, a work of more time than is at first imagined, and may give advantages to the French, which possibly are not yet enough foreseen; one thing is obvious, that the cessation

fation in Catalonia and Italy allows them an opportunity of collecting all their power against Germany and Flanders.

When your Lordship lays this before her Majesty, as a consideration of the greatest consequence, you will do me the justice to add, that I shall conform myself to her orders, with all imaginable duty and zeal for her service I am, my Lord, &c.

SHREWSBURY.

action in Gantonis and Italy allows them an
opportunity of collecting all their power
against Germany and Poland.

When your Majesty has this before her
Majesty, or a consideration of the greatest
consequence, you will do me the justice to
and, that I shall conform myself to her
orders, with all imaginable duty and zeal
for her service I am, my Lord, &c.

GEORGE WYNDHAM.

TRANSLATION

OF

FOREIGN LETTERS AND PAPERS, &c.

MEMORIAL. (Page 12.)

For the Duke of Savoy.

THE substitution of the Duke of Savoy and of his family, to the Crown of Spain and the Indies, shall be executed, when the article relative to the re-union of the two monarchies is accomplished. The substitution shall be inserted in all the acts of renunciation, as well that of the King of Spain, as those of the Dukes of Berry and Orleans. It shall be acknowledged by his Most Christian Majesty, and also by the Cortes of Spain. The whole, according to the plan contained in Lord Bolingbroke's letter to the Marquis de Torcy of the 17th July, O.S.

Sicily shall be ceded to the Duke of Savoy, when the said substitution is executed. Upon the arrival of my Lord Lexington, or such Minister as the Queen sends to Spain, at Madrid, the King of Spain shall execute a secret article, by which he engages to cede Sicily to the Duke of Savoy, by the peace, whether general or separate, and to give him possession of that kingdom, upon the exchange of the ratifications. His Royal Highness may take actual possession of that island, as soon as the ratifications of a general peace, or of a separate peace between Great Britain, France, Spain, and Savoy, are executed and exchanged; and the Queen is ready to agree with his Most Christian Majesty, upon an article * to prevent his Royal Highness either exchanging or alienating the said island, for any

* The King gives his consent to such an article.

cause or pretence whatever. The above cited letter of Lord Bolingbroke to the Marquis de Torcy, of 17th July, shall be followed, as well in what relates to the cession of Sicily, as to the substitution of his Royal Highness, in all points not altered by this memorial.

With regard to the barrier of his Royal Highness, we must lay down as a principle, that the Queen has no wish to aggrandise him on the side of France, and that she demands nothing more than his security; which security his Most Christian Majesty has already promised to all the allies of her Britannic Majesty. The Ministers of France contend that this security is implied in the offers made by the King to his Royal Highness, to give up to him Exilles, Fenestrelles, and the valley of Pragelas. Those of the Duke of Savoy insist, on the contrary, upon many other points, as indispensably necessary for such security. The Queen, who cannot take upon her to decide this affair, desires his Royal Highness's reasons may be examined and decided, with those of his Most Christian Majesty, at Utrecht.

In Explanation of the Article to prevent the Re-union of the two Monarchies.

The contents of articles, proposed by her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, for a suspension of arms, the 6th June, O.S. and accepted by his Majesty the Most Christian King, in his answers given the 22d of same month, N.S. shall be followed. The Queen will, without loss of time, dispatch the Minister she intends to send to Spain, and all the said renunciations shall be made and accepted by his Most Christian Majesty, in the space of six weeks, or sooner if possible. This article will meet with less difficulty, as the King has already granted it, and as, if a general or separate peace does not follow, all these acts are to be null and void.

Relating to the Interests of the Elector of Bavaria.

The Queen thinks it just that the Elector of Bavaria should be restored to the possession of the Duchy and Electorate of Bavaria, excepting always the Upper Palatinate, which will remain and belong, with the rank and dignity of first Elector to the Elector Palatine, and failing him, to his brother Prince Charles of Neubourg; so that the said
Elector

Electors of Bavaria cannot hope to recover it till the death of the Elector Palatine, and of his brother.

The Queen thinks it unnecessary she should actually engage to use her endeavours to obtain something for the Elector of Bavaria, as the French Ministers will make use of his possession of the places he now holds in the Netherlands, to procure Sardinia for him. Her Majesty will give it no opposition. This is all that can be expected from her, for it must be confessed that it would little suit with her Majesty's honour and interest, to form new engagements with a Prince, who is at present her enemy, while it is not in her power to fulfil those she has entered into with her allies.

Fontainebleau, August 21st, 1712.

To Monsieur Marschalch. (Page 33.)

S I R,

Whitehall, September 10th, 1712.

I HAVE just received the letter you honoured me with the 9th instant, and which my brother put into my hands.

I dare appeal to yourself, Sir, if the Queen has not been mindful of the King your master's interest, from the very beginning of the negociation, and if at the time she experienced from almost all her allies, a treatment which she certainly never merited, the articles relating to your interest, were not nearly adjusted.

I always spoke to you, I always wrote to you, with a frankness, which I should scarce have observed, had I not known that the Queen's intention was to live in strict union with the King your master, and to obtain complete satisfaction for him before the conclusion of the peace. The Queen was informed of my communications to you, and the assurances I have so often repeated; she approves of them, and therefore is the more surpris'd, when she received intelligence of the Prince of Anhalt's conduct, and your King's orders.

The Queen, Sir, does not forsake her allies; would to God she had never been forsaken by them! her greatest regret is, that she finds herself at last disabled from serving them in any other manner than by good offers and remonstrances.

With regard to myself, there is nothing I more ardently desire,

desire, than to deserve his Prussian Majesty's favour; I flatter myself, little Bonet has not represented me otherwise, though, to tell you the truth, I have some suspicion of this kind, for it seems to me that I am not very well with the Resident, since I once interrupted him, and prevented his saying some things which it were improper a Secretary of State should hear.

In all times, in all places, and in all circumstances,

I am, my dear Sir, &c.

B.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 36.)

Fontainebleau, August 26th, 1712.

I PROMISED you, my Lord, the King's answer to the Queen, and I have the honour to send it to you with the copy. I regret much not being able to deliver it to you myself, and I assure you I am very sorry to find our intercourse in future reduced to letters only. But I feel that I must not dwell long upon that article, so let me pass on to the letters from the King's Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht, which I found upon my return here.

As they were in expectation of the result of your journey, their reasoning upon general topics is a little uncertain, and the main point of the dispatch relates to a private dispute between M. Mesnager with M. de Rechteren. I send you, my Lord, the memorial I received upon it.

The Plenipotentiaries conclude, and I believe, with some reason, that those who are adverse to the peace, create incidents to break off the conferences at Utrecht. As to myself, the conclusion I draw, and which you will not find less true, is that M. Mesnager is not fond of the war, and that his Excellency de Rechteren was drunk.

However it may be, I apprehend, Sir, this is not a time either to break off the conferences, or to threaten to do so; we must let the Dutch remain fast asleep with their dose of obstinacy, and their Ministers as much besotted with the representation of their sovereignty, as with their bumpers, and for this purpose it is not improper, in my opinion, to assume a little austerity with regard to the satisfaction the King has a right to demand for the language and proceedings of Rechteren. If you think differently, have the goodness to inform me of it. You know my compliance
with

with you, and you have easily accustomed me to yield to your opinion without a murmur.

That knave Assurini, this day enters the Bastille. I send you, my Lord, the copy of advices he sent to Holland: I received them from our Plenipotentiaries. He had no papers with him; if he has left any at Paris, I shall have them to-morrow.

If his Excellency Vanderdussen gives credit to such memorials, he ought not to look upon France as exhausted, though, in my opinion, we should not have purchased you and the Earl of Oxford too dear.

They write to me, also, from Utrecht, that Count de Viglio is at Paris. But I think you have done me the honour to mention his being still in England.

Suffer me to be silent with respect to our regret for your departure; should you doubt it, you would have a bad opinion of all those who had the honour of seeing you; I do not select myself from the crowd, because I hope you will always select me as the man who is, with the most sincere and true attachment, &c.

DE TORCY.

Copy of the King's letter to the Queen of Great Britain, from Fontainebleau, 26th Aug. 1712. (Page 36.)

MADAM AND SISTER,

I NEVER doubted the sincerity of your intentions to promote the peace, and you have confirmed the just opinion I formed of you, by the mission of your Secretary of State, Lord Bolingbroke. You could not have chosen a Minister more capable of shortening and removing the difficulties in the negociation. I am persuaded you will be as well satisfied with what he has done, as I have been with his conduct, and more particularly with his assurances of your sentiments with respect to me. Though I doubt not he will give you an exact report of mine towards you, as expressed to him, yet I must add, that I shall forget nothing to maintain the most perfect friendship with you, to make known, upon all occasions, that I am, Madam and Sister, your good brother,

LOUIS.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 40.)

MY LORD,

Fontainebleau, August 29th, 1712.

AS you have approved of my proposal with respect to M. de Rechteren's affair, I gave the King an account of what I had written to you, and of your reply, and of the orders given by his Majesty to his Plenipotentiaries to the same effect.

His Majesty wishes they should, through the Plenipotentiaries of England, require from the States-General a disavowal of the proceedings of M. de Rechteren; that the other Plenipotentiaries of Holland should, for this purpose, all together, proceed to the hotel of one of the King's Ministers, whither the other two would, at the same time, repair. That M. de Rechteren, the author of the insult, should be recalled, and another Plenipotentiary named in his stead, as the most certain proof that his conduct was without the approbation, and contrary to the intentions of his masters.

I believe they will be disinclined to give this satisfaction, just as it may be; but it will afford a subject for a negotiation, while something better is carrying on elsewhere.

The Chevalier writes to me, that he prefers going to Châlons, rather than to Rheims, because the enemy's detachments are in the neighbourhood of the latter city, and provisions are dear there. I see no difficulty in this alteration, the principal object being for him to begin his journey, and one or the other city being equally places for him to pass through, where his residence will be not longer than until a place of security is provided for him out of the kingdom. If you think otherwise, my Lord, you will have the goodness to make it known to me, and you shall be satisfied. You have, in truth, reason to be so with the sentiments you have excited here for you.

The Duké d'Aumont will give you a more particular account of them, than he has done in the letter I inclose. I envy him nothing but the pleasure of seeing you at all times. I give up to him the task of informing you of the vanity those ladies have shown, whom you distinguished by your commendation.

I only entreat you to believe that of all those who have had the honour of seeing you here, no one is more entirely, than I shall be, as long as I live, &c.

DE TORCY.

From

From the Marquis de Torcy. [(Page 42.)]

I LEARN, my Lord, your fortunate arrival in London, and am impatient for an account of the reception her Majesty gave you, to congratulate with you.

I hope you have completed the conversion of your infidels; those with us still preserve some relics of their incredulity, and, supported by your Plenipotentiaries, they can scarce imagine the plan brought by the Abbé Gaultier, could be that adopted for the peace. After what you have told me, my Lord, I own their reasonings give me very little concern. But for the sake of your credit and mine, I must entreat you to inform your negociators at Utrecht, at the proper time for it, that her Majesty intends this plan should be followed: you assured me of it, when I granted, in the King's name, her Majesty's demands for the Duke of Savoy. By so doing, you will, at the same time, remove the alarms of your Plenipotentiaries with regard to Tournay, and silence the voice of infidelity here.

In consequence of what the Abbé Gaultier writes as from you, the King dispatches a messenger to Madrid, and advises the King of Spain to pardon the Catalans, and I doubt not he will act accordingly. He wishes to have passports for six Spanish ships, now ready to sail for the West Indies. I entreat you, my Lord, to send them as soon as possible to Mr. Prior, to whom I have already spoken upon the subject.

We parted with him with some difficulty, but have recovered him again, three days since. He is in request not only for his good company, but for the pleasure of conversing with him about you; and I assure you, that though his sincerity is great, you have no reason to be uneasy, for you lose no part of that good opinion which you left behind you.

The Duchess d'Elbeuf reckons much upon the favourable impression you entertained of her niece, and I believe, in that confidence, she writes you the letter I have the honour to send.

Permit me, without the aid of others, to depend entirely upon the honour of your friendship, and do me the justice to believe, &c.

DE TORCY.

Fontainebleau, September 8th, 1712.

M m 2

The

The Chevalier actually went from hence yesterday, and I have just received a letter from him, dated Meaux; he proceeds on his journey to Châlons sur Marne.

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 44.)

Whitehall, September 10th, 1712.

THAT in leaving France I should have left my heart behind me, Sir, is nothing uncommon, but I have had the misfortune to leave my health there also. In fact, since my return, I have had some feverish attacks, which have prevented my attending to business as usual. I went into the country for my recovery, and returned to Court only four days ago; thus, Sir, I have been deprived of the greatest happiness I can have, which is, to correspond with you. I resume my pen, with pleasure, and I do not know that I should feel greater satisfaction in writing to Madame de Courcillon, or to Madame de Parabèze.

Beside my private interest, in support of this epistolary intercourse, I think I may say that the general interest is concerned in it; for though the Earl of Dartmouth, in whose department France is, ought naturally to communicate the Queen's orders to Mr. Prior, yet my letters to you, written with the openness of heart which I have promised, and which I shall be mindful of, will certainly prevent some difficulties, and remove others.

Surprise never equalled mine upon seeing, by your letter to the Lord Treasurer, and by Mr. Prior's to me, her Majesty's intention explained in a manner to induce you to believe, that Lord Lexington would delay his compliments to the King and Queen of Spain, or hesitate to acknowledge them as such, until the article respecting the re-union was executed. It is true, he will not assume the character of Ambassador till that time, or at the peace; but he will make no more difficulty in acknowledging the King of Spain, than the latter will probably make in consenting to what his Most Christian Majesty has promised in his name: that Minister's instructions have been again looked over by the Lords of the Council, and I own a man must be extremely subtle to find any thing obscure or equivocal in them.

Mr. Prior will satisfy you upon this article, as the Earl of Dartmouth has had orders to send him every necessary information.

You

You remark to me, Sir, in your letter of September 8th, that the infidels with you still preserve some relics of their incredulity. It is the same here; and those must be hardened indeed, Sir, whom so many miracles cannot convert to the true faith. Let us proceed, Sir, in an uniform plan, and keep up, on both sides, that good faith which has hitherto been inviolably preserved, and we shall, at last, subdue these disciples of St. Thomas.

Your honour and mine, equally dear to us, will be equally safe, as long as we adhere to what I had the Queen's permission to say to you, of her Majesty's intention on the general plan of the peace. You will remember, Sir, I represented to you, that her Majesty's conduct, with respect to her allies, was in some measure determined by their own; that the violent measures they had pursued, to impede the negociation, had had the effect of enabling the Queen to make peace, without their concurrence; that in this case her Majesty would declare to them, that she had signed the treaty with France and Spain; that she would propose the plan brought over by the Abbé Gaultier, as that upon which they might make peace; and that she would give them to understand, that in future she could do nothing more than interpose her good offices as the common friend of all parties.

You will also remember, Sir, I had the honour to tell you, in case the Dutch in particular, or other allies, should determine to come in, before the conclusion of the peace, concerted by the Queen and his Most Christian Majesty, we should then have to pay more attention to them, the compassion of people here would be excited, and the Queen's Ministers would be obliged to take such steps, as in the other case, they would have absolutely refused to take.

This is what I advanced in France by her Majesty's order, what by the same order I repeat to-day, and what you will find, Sir, strictly adhered to.

The King's Plenipotentiaries seem to require of us something more, when they insist that her Majesty's Ministers do propose the holding a conference, in which, by a proposition which appears, in some measure, contrary to what her Majesty said in her speech, they will begin upon the barrier of the States-General. In the dispute existing between your Plenipotentiaries and ours, the question is not, to know whether Tournay shall be restored to the

King, or not? for to obtain it is unnecessary for you to begin with a specific declaration; but the question is, to know if the Queen ought to declare in form, and immediately, that Tournay shall be restored to France? for it would be tantamount to such a declaration, were we to consent to the explanation given by your Ministers to that article of the speech. That I may not swell too much a letter which already threatens to be tedious, I refer you to what Mr. Prior will have the honour to say upon this point, and will content myself with saying, that as it is not difficult to find a medium, so I hope we shall avoid every thing that may cause disputes between the Ministers of Great Britain and France.

The Earl of Dartmouth sends twelve passports for the ships now ready to sail for the West-Indies, as required by the King of Spain, and Mr. Prior will dispatch them directly.

The Queen has no objection to the change in the Chevalier's route; the principal matter is to lose no time in procuring for him the security he requires, that he may then leave the kingdom.

I flatter myself, the Duchess d'Elbeuf will be satisfied with what I have done pursuant to her orders, and I beg you to let her have the inclosed.

I am persuaded you do me the justice to believe, I have neglected nothing to serve the Duke of St. Pierre; that he is related to you, is sufficient to insure my devotion to his interest, and the Queen is very happy to have this opportunity of showing her esteem and friendship for you, by sending positive orders to her Plenipotentiaries to second those of France in their instances to procure that satisfaction for the Duke of St. Pierre, which he with so much justice solicits.

Please to excuse the faults in a letter written in much haste, and which I have not had time to shorten. Be assured I am, &c.

B.

To the Duke d'Aumont. (Page 80.)

Whitehall, September 26th, O.S. 1712.

THERE is nothing but your arrival at Court, Sir, can give me greater pleasure than I experienced upon receiving the honour of your letter of the 27th ult.

The state of affairs, the commission I was entrusted with,
the

the politeness of the nation, and, above all, the King's goodness, contributed to procure me the honours I received during my short stay at the Court of France, and which I never can be unmindful of. But, Sir, to find you will still preserve your friendship for me, and even at this distance, overpower me with your favour, is, I must own, in the highest degree, flattering to me.

Monsieur de Torcy informs me, you will set out in a few days; I expect you with impatience, and, I dare promise you, that though you may not here meet with the abilities of the Ministers, nor the magnificence of the Court of France, you will however experience much integrity in our negociations, and may enjoy pleasures which, without making a great noise, never fail to be very endearing.

I am, my dear Duke, &c.

B.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 81.)

Versailles, September 27th, 1712.

THE account of your illness, Sir, gave great uneasiness to all those here whom you permitted to consider themselves among the number of your friends; and as I flatter myself, perhaps more than any person, so I was more alarmed, and more afflicted at not having letters from you. The heart may be left behind, and yet health may be preserved. Yours is essential to the public, and to the honour of those who are combating the infidels; so many reasons should persuade you, Sir, of the interest I feel in your recovery, even though you could believe, that after having had the honour of knowing you, I could be indifferent to any thing that concerns you.

I should not be anxious about the success of the business we are treating, if I had not some apprehension from the change in the ordinary correspondence. I did not disguise my uneasiness to Mr. Prior, when he informed me, some days ago, that, in future, he was to receive the Queen's orders from other hands than yours. The best intentions alter much from the manner in which they are explained, and whatever respect I may entertain for her Britannic Majesty's choice, you will pardon me, Sir, if I frankly confess, that having experienced the pleasure of negociating with you, I ought to be excused if I prefer you to other Ministers. You give me fresh courage, by informing me

that our intercourse will not be interrupted, and I place an absolute dependence on that openness of heart, for which I think I may be answerable, as well from past experience, as from your promises of it, now renewed. Indeed, I would not have been security for it to the ladies, had you made a longer stay with us. But as it was sufficiently long to explain to you my thoughts, I leave it to you, Sir, to judge of my sincerity, and of the extreme desire I have to remove all difficulties, whenever it was impossible to prevent them.

It is true I was apprehensive of one very considerable difficulty on the side of Spain, when Mr. Prior explained to me, during the last days of the King's stay at Fontainebleau, the orders given to Lord Lexington. I could not believe the Queen's intentions were ill interpreted, but as I was convinced her Britannic Majesty would change a resolution, which appeared to me opposite to the steps she has hitherto pursued, I fortunately resolved not to write a word to Spain of the occurrence which the letters to Mr. Prior gave me reason to dread: so that this wrong explanation will have been productive of no inconvenience, and the harm will be slight since it is solely confined to the uneasiness it has occasioned to me.

The Queen's orders to Lord Lexington are conformable to your account of them. He will be well received in Spain, and the Catholic King is assiduous to promote the execution of every thing promised by the King in his name. So that I hope, Sir, no time will be lost. I was apprehensive of it when Mr. Prior imparted to me the observations made at Oxford upon the project of the renunciation. It appeared to express in different terms what the King very distinctly declares in the act, of which I sent you a copy. There was even an enumeration of our princes of the blood, which it was of great consequence to France not to admit. I spoke of it to Mr. Prior, but Lord Lexington being gone, I judge these observations could not be inserted in his instructions, and I rejoice they are not, for it is supposed the original from the King of Spain is now on its way; the King will receive it in a few days, and I own I should regret the time lost in sending it back, and in demanding another, which would not contain clauses more strong, or more explicit, than those in the present act.

The Abbé Gaultier would not forgive me these useless delays,

delays, he warmly urges a conclusion, and is almost inclined to attribute to me the stoppage of the negociation. Were it necessary to justify myself, I could prove, and you would be easily convinced, Sir, that the King has used all diligence on his part, and has been seconded by the King of Spain, beyond our hopes and expectation. But I believe the Abbé is animated by his zeal, and perhaps by his dread of leaving London, and coming here before the whole business is concluded.

You recal to my mind, Sir, word for word, the project you communicated to me, as the rule we should follow to the completion of the whole. If I requested you to repeat it, do not arraign my memory, which has been faithful, attribute it solely to those who doubt, and whose restlessness might sometimes stagger the firmest faith; an indiscreet and artful advance, on the part of Holland, brings on again the former incredulity; it then becomes necessary to make use of such arms as you have supplied me with, to restrain the proceedings within the terms of your plan.

It is in pursuance of the same plan, that the King does not press the renewal of the conferences at Utrecht, and has demanded pretty strong satisfaction from that drunkard de Rechteren. It appears to me, to be also an indirect way to strengthen the Dutch in their obduracy, and prevent their entering before the conclusion of a separate peace, into the measures agreed upon between the King and the Queen. Thus your people become more exasperated against the obstinacy of an imperious republic, which does not even observe the law of nations, in regard to Ministers treating of peace with her, and, in this manner, we make daily advances towards that object which we have both in view.

But, as it appears, from what Mr. Prior has told me, since the arrival of the last messenger, the Queen is of opinion, that it is proper the conferences at Utrecht should be renewed; and, as you remark in your letter, that it is right to find out some medium to determine all disputes between the King's Plenipotentiaries and those of Great Britain, his Majesty consents to order his Ministers at Utrecht to make the declaration, of which I send you a copy, to those of the Queen. I believe it is the best medium we can use, to guard, as long as may be necessary, the secret of the Queen's intentions; and, at the same time,

time, to be at a certainty that the peace shall be treated of, upon the plan which the King sent to London in the month of April last.

If her Britannic Majesty judges it proper to renew the conferences at Utrecht, it is necessary for her to inform the Plenipotentiaries of her intentions upon the declaration I send you. Those of the King will unite with them upon the subject. But before any step be taken, the States-General must necessarily give satisfaction in the affair of de Rechteren.

The King always reckoned they would be uneasy to give it in so explicit a manner as his Majesty has demanded; though it would not be proper for him to recede, because the enemies of the peace would certainly derive an advantage from it. But the King, in consideration of her Majesty, will readily give up one part of the reparation he demanded, being well persuaded that her Britannic Majesty will have a proper regard to the offence, and to the respect due to the King from such a republic as that of Holland.

I expect, Sir, by the first messenger, the twelve passports you mention, for the ships which the King of Spain is sending to the Indies, and I thank you beforehand for them.

It would only lengthen my letter, and tire you, without any use, were I to write upon all the points treated upon by Mr. Prior and myself, and of which he will give you an account; I have communicated to you an advice just received, respecting the residence of the Chevalier out of the kingdom; you know it is through her Majesty he expects the security necessary for him, as it is certain that detachments from the enemy's army are daily at the very gates of the town where he is to reside.

I have also acquainted Mr. Prior with the secret offers made to the Elector of Bavaria. You know, Sir, that the King is interested in the welfare of that Prince, and am convinced you informed the Queen of what his Majesty said when you took leave; the Elector's uneasiness was very great when he heard that Sicily was certainly disposed of, and, since your departure, his importunities have been more pressing. As it is his constant hope that the Queen is not adverse to him, and even believes her Majesty will be happy to contribute to his advancement, he wishes she

should be informed of what he demands, to remunerate him, as far as existing circumstances will permit, for the cession of the Upper Palatinate, and for that of his right to the most considerable portion of the Netherlands. I send you the project as drawn up by himself.

The letter you did me the honour to address to me, for the Duchess d'Elbeuf, I sent to her. As she is now very ill, I do not depend upon an answer before the departure of the messenger.

It remains for me to thank you, Sir, for the many grateful tokens of your friendship, in speaking to the Queen concerning the interest of the Duke of St. Pierre; from such powerful patronage he may expect every thing, and as to myself, I am aware that I am indebted to you for those marks of her Britannic Majesty's goodness of which you assure me, and I wish it were in my power to deserve them by the profound respect I entertain for her.

You instruct me to make excuses for so long a letter, and though there is more occasion for them on my part than on your's, yet I assure you, I was so little conscious of my fault while writing, and the time passed so quick, that I still think my letter short. I wish it may appear so to you, and I entreat you to read with patience, my sincere protestations of being, &c.

DE TORCY.

The Duc d'Aumont is hurrying the workmen of Paris to be the sooner with you; that is the only advantage I envy him. Upon another occasion I will use the permission you have given me, to write to you by another hand. I know not if the Queen has spoken to Baron de Forstner on the subject of the Chevalier's residence at Bar.

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 91.)

S I R,

Whitehall, September 26th, O.S. 1712.

THE last messenger having been delayed some days at Calais, by contrary winds, I did not receive the honour of your's of the 27th, N.S. until yesterday.

The Queen is at Windsor Castle, so that I shall not be able to see her before to-morrow, and consequently I must defer till next week what I shall have the honour to say to you by her orders, but, in the mean time, I would not forego.

forego the advantage of this evening's post, to thank you for all your goodness, and to repeat my assurances of an inviolable, an eternal friendship.

Lord Lexington's instructions are certainly conformable to what I informed you of, and her Majesty's intentions on that subject have never varied. Though Spain, as well as France, be in the department of the other secretary, yet, at the request of that Minister before his departure, I perused with him all the orders he had received; and I think I may assure you that, when he left our Court he was complete master of every circumstance, and as well disposed as you could wish. It is true the observations of the civilians were written on the margin of the draught of the act of renunciation delivered to him, and that upon which he is principally to insist, is the enumeration of the Princes of the blood of France.

I heartily wish we had never consulted those cavalling advocates, and, as far as I can judge, the clauses drawn up in Spain are as strong and as clear as those which these gentlemen wish to insert. But, at the same time, I own I do not well comprehend the objections to the enumeration, as laid down in Mr. Prior's dispatch to the Earl of Dartmouth, in an act which is to be the foundation-stone of the peace, and which is to preserve the tranquillity of Europe for ages to come; it is surely much more excusable to admit useless expressions, than to neglect the smallest word that may either explain or confirm it.

I rejoice that the arms I provided you with have been of service; I am only surprized you should have had occasion to use them.

It seems to me, that your infidels have little reason to oppose a minister, who, alone, and without their assistance of participation, has conducted affairs to that point, which some time since they dared not hope to attain.

I thought the passports, which the King of Spain demanded for the ships about to sail for the Indies, were already at Madrid; but I am just informed, that Mr. Gilligan her Majesty's commissary for trade now going to Spain, is charged with them: he sets off directly, and I hope this delay will have no bad consequence.

As I have mentioned the Indies, I must ingenuously tell you, Sir, that the invasion of our colonies by a squadron of your men of war, is an incident that does more harm,

harm, than all the booty they can carry away will do you good.

The Minister of Lorain has been spoken to concerning the safety of the Chevalier, and he has written to his master. On Sunday I shall certainly ask him what answer he has received.

On Monday or Tuesday next, I shall have the honour of writing to you by Mr. Prior's secretary. I am, &c.
B.

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 125.)

S I R,

Windfor Castle, September 30th, O.S. 1712.

I CAME here last Saturday, and have had the honour to read to her Majesty a part of your last letter of the 27th of September. I have at present materials for a long dispatch, if, in order to save you as much trouble as I can, while you are loaded with so many important affairs, I had not written a very long account of them to Mr. Prior. As he is fortunate in having frequent opportunities of paying his respects to you, he will avail himself of your intervals of leisure to mention to you the various articles.

The Queen finds the declaration to be made by the Plenipotentiaries of France will remove all the scruples of her own Ministers, will do away the difficulty they had raised, and which they considered as of considerable magnitude. I write to them to this effect; they will speak in the same language to yours; with whom they will at the same time agree upon the satisfaction to be given in the affair of that drunkard de Rechteren.

Her Majesty has also commanded me to impart to them the rule she had laid down, and which she has promised his Most Christian Majesty to observe in the course of the negociations. She is very happy to find there has been no misunderstanding upon this subject, and that you understood the plan, which she intends to follow with the utmost exactness, in the same sense as I had orders to explain it, when in France, upon all occasions, and principally in such conjunctures as the present, in which the parties treating are of the first rank among mankind, and the subjects in discussion are of the utmost importance to the happiness of the world; the best thing to be done is to leave nothing
obscure

obscure or equivocal in the terms to be used. This, it seems to me, we have done hitherto; and perhaps there is no example of a negociation conducted like the present, in which the labourers on both sides have nothing to reproach themselves with. This must be a great consolation to us, and is a good omen of the success of our great work.

The language held by the Dutch, with regard to the Elector of Bavaria, is, as it appears to me, very different; for when they speak to us, they seem resolved to leave him no place whatever in the Spanish Low Countries.

• You may be certain I gave the Queen an account of the manner in which the King spoke to me, on the subject of that unfortunate Prince, and I doubt not you have communicated to his Most Christian Majesty the Queen's sentiments thereupon, which I had the honour to explain to you, and I do not find they are changed since my return. If you compare what may be obtained for this Elector with his personal merit, or with the obligations which France and Spain may be under to him, it will certainly appear a trifle to you; but when you see the subject in another light, and when you give yourself the trouble to consider that this Prince has lost all he had of his own, and all the King of Spain had entrusted to him or given him, except Luxembourg, Namur, Charleroy, and Nieuport, I think you will allow, the offers made to him are by no means inconsiderable, in relation to restitutions and expectancies held out to him. In one word, Sir, you know the real sentiments of the Queen, but you also know those engagements and measures which her honour requires, and ever will require her to keep.

To preserve my character with you, and to preserve that openness of heart which I have so often promised you, it is necessary I should inform you, that on Sunday evening, a messenger brought me letters from Utrecht, dated October 5th, N.S. The Queen's Plenipotentiaries observe, that five or six of the States-General had even that morning been in conference with them; that they had, in a most pathetic manner, represented to them the resolution their masters had taken, to join with the Queen in all measures necessary to accomplish the peace; that they had spoken to them of Tournay and Condé as of places, in the unanimous opinion of the republic, essential for the security of their barrier; and that, as to all other articles of the peace,
they

they affected to show great facility and perfect submission to the Queen. You see, Sir, the plea the Hollanders have taken; you know well the state of our domestic affairs, for, whenever I spoke to you on that subject, I never disguised any thing; reflect as a great and able Minister on the part we must take, and be assured I will make no other use of the confidence you may think proper to repose in me, than that which becomes a man of honour and your servant.

The answer I give, by the Queen's order, to the overtures of the Ministers of the States, is sufficiently general. I expect a repetition of their instances; and as the Earl of Strafford is to come to Court in a few days, to receive the Order of the Garter, he will doubtless be charged with what those Ministers may say, and with all the assurances they may give, for an entire reconciliation with the Queen, and for the conclusion of their peace with that of her Majesty. I have even some reason to think this Minister will be authorized to say, that, provided the States may keep Tournay, they will no longer hesitate to come into all the measures that may be required of them. I must not launch out into a reasoning upon these facts, you see, at one glance, much more that I am able to suggest: it were better for me to close my letter, assuring you I am, &c.

B.

Memorial, presented by Mr. Prior to the Marquis de Torcy.
(Page 144.)

October 3d-14th, 1712.

PURSUANT to directions from the Earl of Dartmouth, in his letter of the 15th ult. I have the honour to represent to you, that having examined the terms of the act of renunciation, it was found expedient to make the subjoined additions *. As, at the same time, you were pleased to agree, that these additions should be inserted in the act; and have only objected to the following—"After the words *past and transmitted*, should be inserted the names of the persons to whom the right of succession should be declared to belong, by virtue of the renunciation."

According to your intentions and my duty, I sent to England your consent to the additions, and your objection

* I do not send them, as they were all agreed to, except what follows.

to

to this, as also your letter to Lord Bolingbroke on the subject.

The whole having been deliberately examined by the Queen in Council, her Majesty has, through the Earl of Dartmouth, commanded me to communicate to you her sentiments and resolve thereupon.

That as to the objection, that Philip being a foreign Prince, would take upon him, by this nomination, to regulate, in some sort, the succession to the Crown of France, the answer is evident;—that Philip, with respect to this act, neither can nor ought to be considered as a foreign Prince, and does not appear in it in that quality, but, on the contrary, in that of a Prince of the blood of France; and so near in the line of succession to that Crown, that, on this consideration alone, it has been already agreed, that it was not possible to secure a lasting peace for Europe, if Philip did not renounce the Crown of France, as well for himself as for his descendants, without intending any reservation of his rights and pretensions, in any manner whatever: that being the case, it is found absolutely necessary to enumerate the legitimate order of succession to the Crown of France, by virtue of the renunciation; for that act would appear very imperfect, which should say negatively that Philip and his descendants renounce the Crown of France, if the Princes who are called to it, by virtue of the same act, should not be positively named: and so far is Philip from being regarded at present as a foreign Prince, that he can only be considered by the Queen in that light after the full execution of the said act. Even in the act it is stated, in general terms, that Philip gives up his right to all the branches of the royal family of France, even to the most distant: he cannot be thought by that to give them a new right, nor to dispose of the Crown of France in favour of any of them. So that by naming those Princes who are nearest, and who are to succeed more immediately to that Crown, he cannot be thought to give to them any other right than what comes to them by the order of blood, by means of the renunciation; and so far from naming afresh the successors to the Crown of France, he only repeats those who are already more especially called to it. When he renounces the Crown of France, for himself and for all his posterity, he consents that this right should be looked upon as passed and transmitted to him who should
be

be found next in degree, immediately after the King, the present Dauphin, and their descendants; and consequently, the case happening, this right falls directly to the Duke of Berry, and his descendants for ever: and failing them, to the Duke of Orleans, and his descendants for ever: there can be no difficulty in enumerating their names, as the meaning of the act includes their nomination.

It is added, that in the authentic act of agreement for the suspension of arms in Flanders, this devolution of the rights of the Dukes of Berry and Orleans, and of their descendants, has been already particularly specified and declared.

The Queen has given her orders to Lord Lexington, before his departure from England, in conformity with the memorial which I have the honour to present to you; and as France has already engaged that the renunciation shall be made in the manner most satisfactory to her Majesty, she is persuaded the King will not delay to assist, with her Majesty, in removing this difficulty, and to take from the enemies to the peace every occasion to pretend there is any omission in the construction of an act, on the explication of which depend the friendship and good correspondence between the kingdoms of Great Britain, France, and Spain, and the future security of all Christendom.

The Nomination of the Princes of the Blood, &c. (Page 146.)

Versailles, October 15th, 1712.

IT is my will, and I consent, for myself and my said descendants, that, as well now as in future, this right should be regarded as gone by, and transmitted to my brother, the Duke of Berry, and to his children and descendants male, and born in lawful wedlock; failing them, to my uncle the Duke of Orleans, and to his children and descendants male, born in lawful wedlock; failing them, to my cousin, the Duke of Bourbon, and to his children and descendants male, born in lawful wedlock: so successively to all the Princes of the blood of France, their children and descendants male for ever, according to the rank and order by which they shall be called to the Crown, by right of birth, consequently to him, among the said Princes (I being, as also my descendants, excluded and incapacitated) who may be found nearest in degree immediately after the King, by whose death the said Crown of France would be-

come vacant, and to whom the succession shall belong, at whatever time and in whatever case it may happen, that he may have it and possess it, as true and lawful successor, in the same manner as if I and my descendants had never been born.

To the Duke de Noailles. (Page 151.)

Whitehall, September 11th, 1712, O.S.

YOU can never, Sir, do me greater pleasure, than when you furnish the opportunity of being of service to those who have the happiness to enjoy your protection, and I will endeavour to act in such a manner as to convince you that I shall never forget the favours you have conferred upon me.

Preserve for me, Sir, the friendship you promised me, and be assured that, in all circumstances of my life, I shall never cease to be, &c.

To the Duke d'Aumont. (Page 152.)

Whitehall, November 11th, 1712, O.S.

THE news just arrived from Spain will hasten the conclusion of the great work of the peace; such is the reflection of a Minister: they will oblige the Duke d'Aumont to repair hither soon; such is the reflection of a friend:—you have given me the liberty, Sir, to assume this title, and I will never drop it. The Abbé Gaultier tells me, you are waiting for passports from Holland, to send off your equipage: it appears to me that these passports are not very necessary, since you may have a frigate or two to convoy them: it is a long time since I offered your steward to send the Queen's orders for two ships that are now in the Downs. We lost our opportunity to hire the Earl of Leicester's house, which I am sorry for, because it will be very difficult to find another that may suit you; however, I shall not fail to contribute my endeavours to that purpose.

The Duke of Hamilton had orders on Sunday to hasten his departure, and I believe he sets out in ten or twelve days.

Mr. Prior returns this week to France: he will be intrusted to renew my assurances how perfectly I am, &c.

To

To Madame de Feriole. (Page 153.)

MADAM,

Whitehall, November 11th, 1712, O.S.

HIS Royal Highness has had the goodness to promise, that as soon as he gets possession of Savoy, he will confirm to the Abbé Tencin his Majesty's gift of the Abbey de l'Abondance.

I give you joy of this good news; and if the success I have had in the execution of your first orders, procures me the honour of receiving others, I am sufficiently happy.

Mr. Prior sets off this week on his return to Paris; I proposed to him the exchange of employments, but he showed his wisdom in not listening to me: all that I can obtain from him is, a promise that he will assure you of that perfect esteem with which I am, &c.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 154.)

SIR,

Verfailles, October 17th, 1712.

THE letter you did me the honour to write, and which I received by Mr. Prior, gives me hopes of soon receiving another, which will contain the Queen of Great Britain's intentions upon all the articles in my letter of the 27th ult.

It is a great pleasure to me, Sir, to receive your orders frequently, and at the same time assurances of your friendship, of which I desire the continuance more than I can possibly express.

We have had a little contest, Mr. Prior and I, respecting the enumeration, which your advocates will have made, of all the Princes of the blood; I think, however, you will find I am right, when you have read the proposal I made to him, and of which I subjoin a copy. It seems to me to give to the act of renunciation all the force you can wish, and we avoid making out a long list, tending only to obscure an act which it is necessary should be very clear and very intelligible.

The arms you may furnish me with, will be always good, it remains only to make a proper use of them, and I ought often to wish they were in better hands, considering the importance of the business in question; I believe, however, there is ground to hope, more than ever, that, with your

assistance, we shall be fortunate, and make the harbour at last.

It seems the Hollanders begin to relent, and your Plenipotentiaries have declared to those of his Majesty, that the States-General now consented to treat, upon the basis that Lisle should be restored to his Majesty. This is one step; it will be followed by others, but the first is always the most difficult.

It is highly necessary, Sir, that the Queen should urge the Duke of Savoy to conclude; he stops at trifles, and while he is disputing for a few summits of the Alps, or a few villages which he will not obtain, he runs the risk of losing Sicily; for there is much disorder in that island, and its inhabitants, by nature restless, declare openly it were better to choose a master, and to give themselves up to the House of Austria, than to suffer themselves to be disposed of like a flock of sheep. If the peace were made, it would be easy, immediately afterwards, to give the Duke of Savoy possession of Sicily, and he would then know how to keep his new subjects to their duty.

The Plenipotentiaries of Portugal say many silly things at Utrecht: it would be charity in the Queen to the Portuguese, to require the King, their master, to demand a suspension of arms as soon as possible. The Spaniards are at present besieging Campo Mayor, which apparently will not hold out long, if briskly attacked. The Portuguese, on their side, have precipitately raised the siege of a castle called Caravajal, which they had begun to invest.

I write a long letter to the Lord Treasurer on the subject of the disagreeable occurrences in America. The King has considered it as an unfortunate accident, but as one of those which could not be foreseen, and which might have happened on your part the same as on that of France, without any cause of complaint. Nevertheless, his Majesty proposes expedients to repair the loss, though, in point of justice, he is under no obligation so to do; but he wishes to give you occasion to silence the infidels.

I doubt not the Abbé Gaultier has given you an account of the proposals I desired him to make, to forward the signing of the peace, therefore I do not repeat them; and should any one of them be agreeable to her Majesty, I shall expect your orders. I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

The

The King of Spain has prorogued the opening of the States to the 20th instant, so that Lord Lexington will arrive at Madrid before the sitting of the Assembly.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 158.)

Verfailles, October 21st, 1712.

YOU frequently alarm our Plenipotentiaries, Sir; and, whatever is done to remove their fears, their uneasiness returns the moment your Ministers seem to support the pretensions of the Dutch.

You had provided me with a defence against such terrors; and, besides, I had received your last letter, when I gave the King an account of the Earl of Strafford's journey to London, and the substance of his speech at Utrecht before his departure.

I am, therefore, proof against all fresh assaults from the infidels, and I have no fear that the Queen of Great Britain will urge the King to desist from the restitution of Tournay, as is expected in Holland; but I must compliment you, Sir, for having at last brought the Dutch to that point that the general peace now depends upon her Britannic Majesty, for it is certain the States-General, having already consented to the restitution of Lisle, will consent much more easily to restore Tournay (so necessary for the French barrier) whenever the Queen shall please to tell them, they are fortunate that the King is contented with that town, as the only condition demanded by his Majesty, equivalent to the successes of a campaign which they might have avoided, by paying a proper deference to her councils and example,

Thus the conclusion of this great work is in her Britannic Majesty's hands. Her orders to the Earl of Strafford will completely bring the Dutch to their senses; and I am persuaded, Sir, you will lose no time in sending him back to Holland, instructed in what he is to say to oblige that republic to recede upon the article of Tournay. They are not in a state to contest the point much longer; and you know better than any one how embarrassed they would be, if they were forced to stand another campaign.

Then finish the whole, since it is now brought to maturity, and save her Majesty the uneasiness of soliciting the King in vain, now she knows his intentions: and how distressing it would be to him to refuse her requests.

In truth, Sir, Sicily having been granted to your solicitation with so good a grace, entitles us to expect that you would not interfere with respect to Tournay, except in our favour; and force our enemies, by your remonstrances, to conclude a peace, of which their provinces are in so much want: that the Queen would command the Earl of Strafford to speak in a decisive manner upon his return to the Hague, and I will be answerable to you for the success. It is more worth while to confer an obligation upon enemies, as we were formerly, than upon such friends as the Dutch are now.

You may perhaps think I am giving way to the restlessness of our infidels; far from it, I assure you: no person whatever has more reliance on your word than I have.

The Duke of Argyle arrived here the day before yesterday, and had the honour to see the King on the following morning. He appeared very well satisfied with his Majesty's intentions, and I suppose he will give an exact account of them to the Queen. He agrees with us, that it is for our mutual interest that the subjects of her Britannic Majesty should be dissuaded, as much as possible, from sending corn to Barcelona, as long as the Germans continue in Catalonia. I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

The King has certain information, Sir, that the Dutch have resolved to give up Tournay, and only intend to make an attempt to keep it, which they themselves know will be useless.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 161.)

S I R,

Verfailles, October 26th, 1712.

YOU will have seen, by the letter I had the honour to write to you, the 21st instant, that the King was informed of the Earl of Strafford's journey to London, and of the principal commission he was charged with by the States-General to the Queen.

To-day I should have had only to repeat what I observed to you in the same letter, with regard to Tournay, had not Mr. Prior spoken to me upon that subject with some warmth, and used the most pressing reasons to induce the King to give it up, with a view of accelerating the peace.

peace. I own, Sir, I was not of his opinion; I even showed him, that the Queen and he thought differently, for her Britannic Majesty approved the declaration made by the Plenipotentiaries of France to those of Great Britain, which leaves nothing uncertain in the King's intentions with respect to Tournay. I know not whether I convinced him, but I can assure you his arguments were less weighty with me, as in the whole of what he said, I saw no assurance of a certain peace, though the King were willing to make another sacrifice to the general good of Europe, by giving up Tournay, a place so considerable, and at the same time so necessary for the security of his frontier.

I have repeatedly read over your last letter, Sir, and with much attention; what strikes me most forcibly in it is, that the Dutch have resolved to unite with the Queen in all necessary measures for a peace; that, excepting the article about Tournay, they affect great compliance with all other conditions, and a perfect submission to the Queen of Great Britain's intentions. But I do not find they desist from the other points contained in the last memorial they gave to your Plenipotentiaries. It does not appear that they explain themselves clearly about the barrier, and as to commerce, they still insist upon the four species, which the King excepts from the tariff of 1664. They continue to speak of the barrier on the side of the Empire in such terms as his Majesty can never admit; and lastly, their excluding the Elector of Bavaria would deprive his Majesty of all means to fulfil the engagements he is under to that Prince.

The article of Tournay must not, therefore, be considered as the only point that impedes the peace, as I supposed when I had the honour to write to you a few days ago, and according to what Mr. Prior told me yesterday.

In truth, Sir, if all these difficulties were removed, if it were possible to secure for the Elector of Bavaria a remuneration conformable to the plan I sent you, or, at least, to give him, with Sardinia, what he now is in possession of in the Low Countries, I own to you, that the certainty of a very speedy peace, in which Holland would be a party with Great Britain, the honour and interest of the Queen, and, let me add, that of her Ministers, would be very strong reasons to determine the King

to a measure, which his Majesty had resolved never to agree to: you know also, he had grounds to believe the Queen would never press him upon this article.

It remains, therefore, with the Queen to judge, whether she can give and execute these assurances; in this case, Tournay will not be an impediment to so great a blessing as that of peace. But if we are still to encounter new difficulties from Holland, from the Duke of Savoy, or from the other Princes, whom the Queen may think necessary to join in the treaty, or if he must abandon such an ally as the Elector of Bavaria, the King will not engage to desist from so just a demand as that of the restitution of Tournay.

In one word, Sir, this compliance of his Majesty must be the termination of the war, and the pledge of a certain peace between France, Great Britain, Holland, and those of the allies whom you may induce to come in. If such is not the case, the King demands the execution of the project agreed between his Majesty and the Queen, that is to say, to make a separate peace immediately after the renunciations are registered.

This is all the King can do, and I am persuaded you will think it a great deal, considering what I have said or wrote to you, and also considering that his Majesty is informed of the condition and the resolutions of the Dutch. I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 166)

Verfailles, October 26th, 1712.

THOUGH Matthew be the most unsufferable of human beings, yet I believe, my Lord, he is still honest enough to labour faithfully, and to do his best to finish our work; we have therefore agreed that he shall set off for England, to assure you, better than I can myself, of our real and sincere desire to conclude with you, and with those allies to whom you have extended a protection which they have ill-deserved; but you, and the state of your affairs, are the objects of our consideration.

Finish the business then, my Lord, as it all depends upon you, and send back Matthew as soon as possible, that I may have the pleasure of hanging him, according to agreement,

ment, if the peace is not concluded by his Majesty's giving up Tournay.

If he be sincere, he will tell you how much I suffer, in my own person, from this altercation; the infidels triumph, and I meet with reproaches which other services do not remove. But I suffer for you; and if the peace is made, as I hope it will, I shall be contented, even though Matthew escape a hanging. I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

I beg, Sir, your attention to the two memorials he will give you, the importance of which you are perfectly aware of.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 167.)

Marli, November 15th, 1712.

AT last, my Lord, the essential point, the renunciation of the King of Spain, has been executed at Madrid; and I can give you no better account of what passed on that occasion, than by sending you a copy of the letter, written by Monsieur de Bonac, upon leaving the Cortes where the business was transacted. I imagine Lord Lexington, who was witness to it, will give the Queen an account.

The registering the act of renunciation will be made in the Parliament of Paris, as soon as the original, which we expect from Madrid, comes to hand; and authentic copies will be afterwards registered in all the other Parliaments of the kingdom.

You see, my Lord, the King has completed his part; for the renunciations of the Dukes of Berry and Orleans are ready, and will be sent to Spain, the moment the original act of the Catholic King's renunciation shall arrive. Therefore, from you, at present, we expect the consummation of the work, and I am persuaded you will not defer it. I own, I strongly wish it may not be necessary to prolong the suspension, which expires in a month.

I am waiting with impatience for news from Mr. Prior; and, whatever reason I may have to complain of him on my own account, I shall be very happy to see him again, without his meriting the gallows. His return will be so much more pleasing to me, as I shall learn from him your particular news; and I assure you, my Lord, there is per-
haps

haps no place in the world, that feels a more sensible interest in every thing that relates to you, than we experience here.

The Duke d'Aumont is briskly pressing his departure, but I could wish Matthew returned before, though I have learned, to my cost, that his councils are to be guarded against. I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 163.)

S I R,

Whitehall, November 11th, O.S. 1712.

THOUGH Matthew is to set off at the end of the week, I could not, however, forego the opportunity of writing to you, by the messenger, which the Abbé Gaultier intends to dispatch, and to tell you, I am much mistaken, if you are not satisfied with us.

The Earl of Strafford's instructions are drawn up; and I showed the Abbé an article in them, by which he is expressly ordered, as also the Bishop of Bristol, to declare to the Ministers of the States, that it is the last time the Queen applies to them; that her Majesty hopes they will accept the conditions offered to them, and coincide, without reserve or farther delay, in the measures of the peace; that if they mean to lose time by negotiating, or to create new impediments by ulterior demands, the Queen will conclude her treaty with France and Spain, and will trouble herself no more with the interests of their republic.

For the rest, you will permit me to refer to what I shall have the honour to write to you, in two days, by his Excellency Matthew. I think you will find him instructed to conclude every thing, and in spite of his physiognomy, which is not the happiest, he shall not be hanged this time.

Before I conclude my letter, I must tell you, Sir, that I have detained a person named Beaulieu, who says he is a native of Languedoc. He pretends to have had an affair with M. de Baviile, about a meeting of the Protestants, held in the Upper Vivares, and of a passport given to a person named Prurat, and on that account he retired from

from France. I know he was very active among the refugees, and I suspect him of having formed schemes, chimerical indeed, but which should not be the less attended to: I know his correspondence, and have taken effectual measures to stop all his letters, and will inform you of what I may be able to discover.

I had finished my letter when your messenger arrived, by whom I received the honour of your's of the 15th instant. I rejoice with you, Sir, at the good news; the enemies to the peace will no longer traverse that great work, and I flatter myself in very few weeks we shall finish the whole.

Prior will soon enjoy a happiness which I envy him, that of seeing and embracing you: the Duke of Hamilton will follow him very soon.

Adieu, Sir; amiable as you are, no one loves you so much as your, &c.

B.

To the Chevalier de Molé. (Page 173.)

S I R,

Whitehall, November 14th, O.S. 1712.

I CANNOT resist entreating you to grant your protection to Monsieur and Madame Calandrini, who are returning to Paris. They are apprehensive of parties of Hussars and others, who are said to be hovering on the frontier: have the goodness to grant them escorts, if you think it necessary, and to recommend them to the Commander at Boulogne.

I must not let slip the opportunity to return you my very humble thanks for all the favours you heaped upon me, during my last journey. I feel a lively gratitude for them, and I venture to assure you, that I am, &c.

B.

I take the liberty to assure Madame de Molé of my very humble respects.

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 174.)

S I R,

Whitehall, November 14th, O.S. 1712.

HOWEVER I may fear being importunate, I cannot resist recommending the interests of Monsieur Calandrini

I

drini again to you. I consider them as my own; and as I never experienced a pang more keen than that caused by the misfortunes of that family, so I cannot expect a more lively pleasure than that of seeing them restored, by the kind offices and powerful protection of the man in the world, to whom I wish most to be obliged.

The favour I ask for them, and which would, though with loss, extricate them from their difficulties, is, that Monsieur Desmarets would have the goodness to change their assignments into bills of the Receivers-General, payable at the same periods, which are in 1714 and 1715; if they could at the same time obtain about fifty thousand livres, on account of their assignments, the favour would be complete, and my obligation to you eternal.

Once more, pardon my importunity, and be persuaded, I am, &c.

B.

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 176.)

Whitehall, November O.S. 1712.

AT last, Sir, we are at the eve of the peace, and I hope you will find Mr. Prior's arguments, at his return, more conclusive than before his departure.

The Queen's firmness will conquer the obstinacy of the Dutch, the compliances of his Most Christian Majesty will place the governors of that republic in a state of inability to play the warrior any longer. So we reason here.

But if, contrary to expectation, the States-General should determine, after the yielding Tournay, to make ulterior demands, and embarrass the negociation anew, the Queen will content herself with having done all in her power for them, and in that case, Sir, her Majesty's Plenipotentiaries will, with such allies as wish to come in, sign the separate treaty with France and Spain.

What I have now the honour to write, is conformable to the instructions which the Earl of Strafford has just received, and this resolution appears so decisive, that it is no longer necessary to enter upon the discussion of many points in your letter of the 26th October. It seems to me, that we have reason to be satisfied with each other, and you will allow me, Sir, to say, that if the King, on his part, has made some sacrifices for the sake of the peace, the
Queen,

Queen, also, depending on the good faith of his Most Christian Majesty's intentions, has taken certain steps, which are beyond the ordinary rules of negociations, and which you know well, without its being necessary for me to remind you of them.

Mr. Prior will explain *vivâ voce*, her Majesty's declarations to the States-General, respecting the interests of the Elector of Bavaria, and her Majesty hopes the King will, in that, discern her wishes to please him in every thing that depends upon her. I must, however, say, Sir, that we cannot see how the pretensions of that Prince came to be interwoven with the cession of Tournay. When the question was to give Sicily to the Duke of Savoy, you said that kingdom was intended, by the King of Spain, for the Elector of Bavaria, who, consequently, ought to be recompensed, this recompence was even specified, and Sardinia was demanded: but at present the case is widely different, and you will own Tournay would not be given to the Elector, if the Dutch were forced to give it up.

The cession of Sicily being granted, and the Duke of Savoy's right to the Crown of Spain being substituted after King Philip and his children, we can no longer doubt this Prince will enter into all the measures necessary to procure a peace. The Queen reckons upon this, and indeed his Royal Highness is too well informed, to wish to give up such real and substantial advantages as we propose for him, and to amuse himself with the wild schemes of the Court of Vienna.

The article of the barrier on the side of France, appeared to be the stumbling-block. You know, Sir, how inflexible you were upon it, and I can assure you, the Ministers of Savoy have always spoken of it as essential to their master's interest, and without which he could not have that security, which his Most Christian Majesty promised all the allies should find in the peace. By what Mr. Prior will have the honour to represent to you, you will see this difficulty no longer subsists, and it seems to me, his Royal Highness confines himself to demand only what is contained in the offer of Exilles, Fenestrelles, and the valley of Pragelas, or in plainer terms, what is absolutely necessary to make those places of any use to him. With respect to the liberty to fortify, which his Royal Highness wishes to have, notwithstanding the treaty of 1696, I believe

lieve the King will have no difficulty to allow it, provided that Prince does not extend it to the rebuilding the fortifications of Pignerol.

I have looked over the draughts of the treaty drawn up at Utrecht, both by the King's Plenipotentiaries, and those of her Majesty; and I find no considerable difference between them, except upon two articles; that of North America, and that of Commerce. I will not enter into particulars, it is a matter of too extensive discussion, and, instead of writing you a letter, I should send you a volume. Mr. Prior will discourse with you upon those points, and I shall confine myself to entreat you would agree with him upon some expedients, that the Ministers at Utrecht, having nothing to unravel, may concur unanimously in bringing over others to pacific measures.

I wish to finish this letter as I began it: at last, Sir, we are at the eve of the peace, do not let us be cast away when in port, but conclude as soon as possible a work, upon the success of which depends the happiness of so many people, as well of the present, as of future ages. I am, &c.

B.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 186.)

YOU will see, Sir, by the last letter I received from M. de Bonac, and of which I have the honour to send you the copy, that the act of renunciation of the King of Spain to the Crown of France, has been approved and registered by the Cortes.

The execution of this act, which his Majesty sends hither in form, is not yet arrived, but the King did not wait for it, before the renunciations of the Dukes of Berry and Orleans were signed and sent off to Madrid; they go by a special messenger, which the Duke d'Orfune dispatches to his master.

Thus, Sir, the King of Spain has renounced his right to the Crown of France, his renunciation is approved in Spain, and registered by the Cortes.

The Princes of France, who might have a right to the Crown of Spain, have renounced it, and their renunciations, signed by them and sent to Madrid, will be registered by the Cortes directly after the arrival of the messenger.

The

The renunciation of the King of Spain to the Crown of France, shall be registered immediately in the Parliament of Paris, and in all the other Parliaments of the kingdom, as it has been already received and registered by the Cortes, and the messenger is expected with it every moment.

Thus then, what the King and the King of Spain promised, is in great part performed, and the remainder on the eve of being so entirely: I should think that, affairs being in this situation, nothing ought to impede the conclusion of the peace; yet, Sir, at the time I expect from you nothing but good news, I own I cannot conceal my uneasiness at your and Mr. Prior's silence. Even the Abbé Gaultier has not written to me since the 11th instant. I believe you comprehend, and consequently will easily excuse my impatience at a crisis, when it is so important to act together.

I see also, they wish to accuse France of retarding the conclusion of the peace, and you know, Sir, on the King's part, he has not lost a moment. His Majesty has even laboured for the interests of the Duke of Savoy, as earnestly as if the treaty with that Prince had been already concluded, and yet he does not know in what state the negociation is at Turin. It is asserted, and they write from some parts of Italy, that the Duke is endeavouring to unite himself more strictly with the House of Austria; that his principal object is to gain for the Prince of Piedmont, the Archduchess, daughter of the Emperor Joseph, with the Milanese, as a portion; that he prefers the acquisition of that duchy to that of Sicily, considering that kingdom as too far distant from his dominions for him ever to keep it, and the Milanese serving as a portion to the Archduchess, he would be perpetual governor of it.

I believe you may have had the same accounts, but it were better to repeat them than to let you remain ignorant of them. There is no room to doubt the Queen has taken proper measures to secure the Duke of Savoy. Upon this article, and upon all others which relate to the peace, the King has an entire confidence in her Britannic Majesty's prudence.

But, Sir, it is time to conclude, and as it is from you, that we must expect the explanation of the whole, you must not be surprised if I eagerly require news from you. I do
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it with the greater confidence, as I know your sentiments, and see plainly that it is no less conformable to the Queen's interest, than to her inclination, to conclude the work begun with speed, which we now see nearly perfected.

I own to you I cannot help being alarmed at the discourages which the enemies of the peace constantly hold against her Britannic Majesty, though I know they have no other foundation, than the desire they have to see the war still going on. However vain their threats, I think I ought, nevertheless, to communicate to you the extract of a letter, written to the King's Ambassador in Switzerland, by a man in the neighbourhood of the canton of Berne. You will make what use you please of it, and I hope you will regard it simply as a speech, the effects of which are not at all to be apprehended.

Lord Lexington will have informed the Queen, of the complaints made by the King of Spain, that the Commander of the British troops in Portugal, has not observed the suspension, and has continued to act in favour of the Portuguese. The consequence was, the Spaniards were forced to raise the siege of Campo Mayor. I could wish, as some recompence, and for the welfare of our affairs, that the Queen would oblige M. de Staremburg to embark the German troops in Catalonia; but, in truth, I fear he is not to be persuaded. I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

Marli, November 25th, 1712.

The King makes the Duke d'Aumont Knight of his Orders, before his departure.

Let me again, my Lord, press you, for the good of our concerns, to let me hear from you, and to lose no time in concluding, as you see on the King's side not a moment has been lost to fulfil his promises.

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 191.)

Whitehall, November 21st, O.S. 1712.

I SEE, Sir, by the last letters you honoured me with, and which la Vigne gave me yesterday, your impatience to hear from us.

As I find this impatience well founded, I would not wait the departure of Mr. Prior, but send you the same messenger,

senger, charged with the inclosed, which Matthew was to have delivered.

That dark-visaged gentleman will not begin his journey before Monday next, and you will not be surpris'd at the delay, when you learn the sad adventure of last Saturday. The Abbé Gaultier will certainly have inform'd you, that the Duke of Hamilton fought a duel with Lord Mohun, and both were killed on the spot.

The Queen will immediately name another Ambassador, and I am much deceived if you are not pleas'd with him.

The King and the King of Spain, have nearly fulfilled all they promis'd, in regard to the great article to prevent the re-union of the two monarchies. I acknowledge it, Sir, and I should be unhappy, if, on our side, any thing had been neglected, that could contribute to forward the conclusion of the great work of the peace. Without my telling you, you know the nature of our government, the genius of our people, what measures we have to keep, how many tempers we have to manage; so that you will not be surpris'd, if the answers you expect from hence, do not come with that expedition, which the present conjuncture seems to require.

For once I hope you will find a recompence for our slowness, in the decisive resolve which the Earl of Strafford carries to Holland.

What you take notice of in your letters, of the intrigues carried on by the Duke of Savoy at the Court of Vienna, agrees with the advices we have from time to time received. In the other letter I have touch'd upon the reasons, which have prevented the Queen's attention to them. I will add in this, that the Imperial Ministers have, on many occasions, affected the like insinuations, wishing no better sport than to embroil his Royal Highness with the Queen, and to make his reconciliation with the King more difficult.

I am extremely oblig'd to you, for the account you give of the threats made by the enemies to the peace. I dare say, the Queen extends a little too far that maxim of Cæsar, that it were better to die at once, than to live in the continual fear of death; but we who have the honour to serve her, will neglect nothing that may contribute to guard a life so valuable as hers.

Her Majesty is much concern'd for what has happened

in Portugal; the commandant of the troops excuses himself, by saying, he did not fail to publish and observe the suspension of arms, as soon as he received his orders. My opinion is, that the Portuguese intercepted the first dispatches from the Earl of Dartmouth upon the subject. I know not what choice M. de Staremburg will take, it is impossible he can maintain himself in Catalonia, and if he refuses to embark his Germans, I fancy he will find some difficulty in making his retreat, as Xenophon did his.

The Abbé Gaultier made me very unhappy, when he told me the Bishop of Bristol had given the Duke de St. Pierre a very cold reception. I have written to that good man, in the strongest terms, that it was the Queen's intention he should exert himself to the utmost, jointly with the Ministers of France, in support of the Duke's interest. By the first messenger I will repeat these orders, in such terms as will melt the ice.

I am too much the Duke d'Aumont's servant, not to take a sensible share in the favour the King has conferred upon him, and I beg you to assure him of it.

It is time to conclude a letter, written in much haste, and which you will perhaps have some trouble to read. I am, &c.

BOLINGBROKE.

In case the Bishop of Tournay keeps his bishopric, we think the Abbé Gaultier might be directly appointed his coadjutor, for reasons we have formerly mentioned.

If any measures are to be taken by us, you have only to inform me of them, for we are entirely disposed to serve him, and in truth he has deserved well both of France and England.

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 195.)

S I R,

Whitehall, November 26th, O.S. 1712.

THOUGH the death of the Duke of Hamilton, and some other intervening accidents have retarded the return of Mr. Prior to France, and have caused some delay in our affairs, which they were not in want of, yet I believe her Majesty's late resolves will repair this loss of time, and

and prevent all impediment that might protract the conclusion of our great work.

Her Majesty has named the Duke of Shrewsbury her Ambassador to France, and as he will set off from hence, without waiting for his equipage, I hope in a fortnight, reckoning from the end of this week, he will arrive at Paris.

I send you an agreement to prolong the suspension of arms; you will have the goodness to sign one copy, and return it by this messenger.

I thought the clause of ratification not necessary to be inserted; if you think otherwise, you need only address the King's ratification to the Abbé Gaultier, and I will immediately let him have that of the Queen.

The King of Spain's renunciation to the Crown of France, has been made in the strongest terms, and in the most solemn manner. Her Majesty doubts not the renunciation of the Dukes of Berry and Orleans will be conceived in terms as strong, and all other acts, necessary for the accomplishment of this article, will be done in a manner equally solemn and authentic.

But, Sir, in order to be more certain in our measures, to prevent the least misunderstanding, which might create delay in the course of this business, the Queen has ordered me to signify to you, her wishes to have a copy of the renunciations of the Dukes of Berry and Orleans to the Crown of Spain, and also of other acts which may be passed on this occasion, pursuant to the plan, to prevent the re-union of the two monarchies, as contained in the articles proposed by the Queen, 6th June, O.S. and accepted by the King 22d of the same month, N.S. 1712. If I do not receive what I now request, in time for the Duke of Shrewsbury to have the Queen's last orders upon that subject, before his departure, I depend, however, upon his knowing her Majesty's sentiments upon his arrival at Paris, though he may not know them when he leaves London. I am, &c.

B.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 201.)

Versailles, November 29th, 1712.

IT is easy for you, my Lord, to be secure of my satisfaction, since you know by experience you always succeed

whenever you were so inclined, and you possessed that inclination when you drew up the article you did me the honour to communicate, as an instruction to the Earl of Strafford. It is calculated to hasten a decision, which I no longer doubt, on the part of the Dutch. The state of their affairs will not allow them to support the war any longer, and certainly they are too fortunate in having the honour to be pressed to make a peace, of which they stand more in need than any other nation.

They will not refuse her Majesty's good offices; and I own, my Lord, that amidst the general interests, I feel a particular pleasure in seeing Matthew has escaped the danger that threatened him. I lose by it a speech which certainly would be affecting, but I expect to be recompensed by other advantages.

The King, Sir, is very sensible of your attention in detaining Beaulieu; I shall know from M. de Baviile what this man is, for he is unknown here, and you know better than any one how visionary the schemes of these wretches generally are. However, for reasons which you yourself urge with much prudence, I must beg you will inform me, of any thing you may discover of his intrigues. It is the mutual interest of France and Great Britain, that nothing should disturb the quiet of the two kingdoms, and that those, who dare make the attempt, should meet with certain punishment. You will probably judge I deserve to be punished for the impatience shown in my last letter, and I confess I was a little ashamed of it, after reading what you did me the honour to write; but in truth, my Lord, what we desire with eagerness, we cannot wait for with composure; and I should dishonour our labours, if I could wait the completion of them with perfect unconcern.

I wish Mr. Prior may have given you a faithful account of our concern for you here, but I doubt his exactness upon this article. If I am mistaken, or if I suspect him wrongfully, he may, my Lord, on his return here, let you know the preference given to every thing admirable when he is compared to you. I do not make these comparisons, for, in my opinion, none are equal to you, and no person can be more truly than I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

To the Duke de St. Pierre. (Page 204.)

Whitehall, December 2nd, O.S. 1712.

IN truth, Sir, the little service I have hitherto been able to do you, does not deserve the obligation you express yourself to be under for it. Far from being satisfied with what I have done, I shall avail myself of every means that may contribute to the success of your pretensions, and in the most essential instructions to the Queen's Plenipotentiaries, they will find in every dispatch, repeated orders to unite with the Ministers of the Most Christian King in your favour. I have told them, and I have the honour to assure you, that they can please the Queen in no better manner, than by supporting your interest in the most active and effectual manner.

Finally, Sir, if in the course of this business, you think proper to give me farther orders, I beg you to write to me without ceremony, and to be fully persuaded that the brother-in-law of Monsieur de Torcy has every right in the world to the absolute command of him who has the honour to be, &c.

B.

To Count de Saaros. (Page 209.)

S I R,

Whitehall, December 3d, 1712.

On Monday last I received the honour of your letter of the 9th instant, N.S. from the port of Hull, and the Queen being still at Windsor Castle, I could not answer you sooner than to-day. I dispatch this evening the Queen's orders, as well to Hull as to Harwich, to provide you a vessel to convey you to France without delay, in case the captain of the vessel, in which you came from Dantzick, should not like to make this short trip. M. Rosenau having left this country some time, I return you the letter you sent me for him.

I wish you, Sir, a fortunate voyage, and I beg you to believe me, &c.

B.

To the Duke of Savoy. (Page 211.)

MY LORD,

Whitehall, December 4th, O.S. 1712.

I OWN I am at the summit of my wishes, since your Royal Highness has condescended to testify you are contented with my conduct, and the honour you have just conferred upon me, by your letter of the 16th of October, which M. de Mellaredé gave me, would satisfy an ambition much more extensive than mine; the best manner in which I can return such favour and goodness, will be to continue, with the same zeal that has hitherto animated me to labour for the interests of that Prince, who, of all others, best deserves to govern.

Your Royal Highness is, doubtless, informed, from the report of your Minister, how much the Queen is disposed to favour all your pretensions.

There is not, to my knowledge, a single proposition, among all the representations of M. de Mellaredé, to which her Majesty has not given her consent; and I have the honour to assure your Royal Highness, that the instructions, as well to the Plenipotentiaries as to the Duke of Shrewsbury, who is in a few days going to the Court of France, are conformable to your wishes, and drawn up from the memorials of your Ministers.

I must not finish this letter, without expressing, to your Royal Highness, the gratitude I feel, for your compliance with my request to give the Abbey de l'Abondance to the Abbé de Tencin.

As the obligations I am under to your Lordship are far beyond my expression, I will confine myself to assuring your Royal Highness, that my most respectful attachment to you shall only cease with my life, and that among those who have the happiness of being your subjects, there is no one more devoted to you than, &c.

B.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 213.)

Verfailles, December 10th, 1712.

AFTER having tired you, Sir, with one of my letters, I reply to that you did me the honour to write with your own hand, and which I received by La Vigne. You do
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me great pleasure in approving my impatience ; it would have been impossible for me to correct it, though you had condemned it, and I should be very sorry to retain an imperfection with which you would have to reproach me.

It is a national defect in France to be eager and impatient, and when the answers, upon an affair of such importance, as that of the peace, do not come up to the expectation of the public, voices, without number, are raised against those whom they suppose have the conduct of the business. Sometimes also it happens, that private interest is at the bottom of the censure of the public, and I do assure you, there are times when the most perfect Stoic would find it difficult to preserve his equanimity. In a word, my Lord, if in this country, we are not obliged to consult the minds of men, we at least find, by daily experience, that in spite of national differences, all men are alike in their manner of thinking. I entreat you then, never more to condemn the impatience I may show to you, though I am convinced you will not lose a moment in the final completion of the work ; without your care, it had never been in the state in which we now see it.

I hope the Earl of Strafford will disconcert all the intrigues formed to prevent its conclusion, and at length will extinguish that warlike spirit which pervades Holland. It seems they still flattered themselves with retaining the Duke of Savoy in the interest of the House of Austria. He was promised a powerful and certain intercession, to secure the marriage of the Prince of Piedmont with the eldest Archduchess, and as the language varies according to contingencies, so they assert, that the Pensionary would do his utmost that the proposal should have the support of France and Great Britain. You assure, me, Sir, there is no occasion to attend to such projects, and I am also persuaded, the Duke of Savoy is too wise to give credit to the Imperial Ministers' insinuations, though countenanced by those of Holland, and to expose himself to the risk of losing the fruits of all her Majesty's exertions in his favour.

You know, Sir, the mode of retreat chalked out by the Court of Vienna for M. de Staremberg, and considering your ships of war almost as the King of Persia, they will have him embark, with his eighteen thousand, on board the frigates which M. Heimes is equipping at Amsterdam.

sterdam. The Duke of Savoy is already threatened with the halt which these forces, coming from Catalonia into Italy, will make in the Milanese.

If we consult the general interest, justice, and the welfare of the peace, it becomes his Majesty, in concert with the Queen, to take effectual measures to free the Princes of Italy from the oppression they labour under from the Germans. In truth, the conduct of those Princes merits little attention from France, but we must have compassion on their weakness, and snatch them from the greedy gripe of those who intend to devour them.

The weather is so tempestuous that I shall be uneasy about Matthew until I see him; since he is not to be hanged, I should be sorry he were drowned. When his Excellency is arrived, we may wait with more patience the arrival of the ambassador in the room of the Duke of Hamilton. His death was truly unfortunate; and it is a great advantage to a kingdom to be able to curb the fury of such combats, in which those perish, who, at some time or other, may be of service to the state.

I reckon the Marquis de Montéleon will be immediately in London; I have been urgent with him to set off, because I hope you will be able to settle with him the difficulties which my Lord Lexington may meet with, in treating with the Spaniards. Diligence is not the characteristic of that nation, and ignorance frequently increases their natural slowness. Montéleon has wit, and means well, and I hope you will find him ready to accommodate any thing that may have given uneasiness at Madrid. It remains for me to thank you, my Lord, for the paragraph in your letter respecting the Duc de St. Pierre: though I am alive to his interest, I own I am more so to this mark of the honour of your friendship, and nothing would be more pleasing to me than to be able to make known to you what I feel at this fresh proof of it. The continuance of your kind offices will be very necessary for the Duke, and to give you more particular information of the justice of his demands, permit me, my Lord, to send you the printed memorial which I received from him.

I executed your orders with respect to the Duke d'Aumont, and read to him the paragraph in your letter which relates to him. He will soon have the pleasure of thanking
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ing you in person for the interest you have taken in the favour his Majesty has done him before his departure.

As for myself, Sir, I shall find as many charms in the dark-visaged gentleman as in Madame de Parabese, when I receive from him intelligence from you. I should not probably have ventured to use so honourable a phrase, did I not suppose him to be now on this side of the water, and, consequently, out of the reach of my letter. I would not he should have to reproach me upon his arrival, for he would find a method to be revenged. I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

Some days ago, I wrote to the Abbé, upon the fancy he has got into his head of being a Bishop. Mankind often ask of the Almighty what would be their destruction, and he rejects the prayers of those he loves. He who has laboured so hard for the public quiet, must not be left in a situation, where he would be tormented all his life. And in truth, my Lord, what the Abbé Gaultier's friends ought to wish, and to select for him, is a good abbey, the revenues of which he may quietly receive and consume, without being forced to trouble himself with the care of a diocese, especially such a one as Tournay, where he would have to manage different interests, and would be always liable to troubles without number or end. The King is very well disposed towards him, and he will certainly not be without a considerable abbey.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 218.)

Verfailles, December 11th, 1712.

I RECEIVE, Sir, with much pleasure, the assurances you give me in your letter of November the 21st, O.S. of a speedy conclusion of the peace. Were I not, as I really am, disposed to believe you, it would not be allowable, I think, to doubt the success of a negociation which the King and the Queen of Great Britain have equally promoted by the surest means to bring it to a conclusion.

I hope then, Sir, the first news from Holland, after the arrival of the Earl of Strafford, will inform us that the Dutch have at last yielded to the Queen's firmness, and if the cabal of warriors, induced that republic to espouse a different

different interest, nothing would be so efficient to bring the Dutch at last to reason and their real interest, as the resolution of her Majesty to sign a separate treaty with the King and the King of Spain, to which should be admitted such of the allies of her Britannic Majesty as were inclined to accede to it.

You have reason to believe, Sir, that the King is satisfied with this resolution, and you have seen, since the commencement of the negociation, that his Majesty always acted like one convinced that the consequences would be such as have occurred, and perfectly answering the entire confidence he placed in her Britannic Majesty.

The King observes, with satisfaction, your account of Mr. Prior's general orders, respecting the interests of the Elector of Bavaria. The Queen of Great Britain has done so much for the Duke of Savoy, that she can easily suppose how much his Majesty is interested for the Elector, to procure him a reparation for his losses. Let me, Sir, differ with you in part in what you say on the subject of Tournay, for it is true, and I can assure you of it, the King would willingly have ceded that place to augment his remuneration. If the Duke of Savoy confines his pretensions to what his Majesty has offered him, all difficulties upon the barrier demanded by that Prince on the side of France, are removed, for nothing remains but the liberty to fortify; and his Majesty will grant him that, in consideration of the Queen of Great Britain, provided he engages at the same time to observe the treaty of Turin in 1696, relative to Pignerole, and to leave that place inclosed only with a wall, without ever rebuilding the fortifications.

You refer me to what Mr. Prior is ordered to say, on the subject of the Duke of Savoy; on that account I wait to speak to him, as also to settle with him the two difficulties which you still meet with in the draughts of the treaties drawn at Utrecht. I hope he will come well instructed in the Queen's intentions, and that we shall easily hit upon some expedient to establish a perfect understanding between the King's Plenipotentiaries and those of the Queen of Great Britain, at the conferences of Utrecht.

Thus, Sir, you will have the pleasure to see your opinion confirmed, and the day fast approaching when the conclusion of a good peace will give happiness to so many nations.

As in the mean time we must carefully guard against any act of hostility that may happen between those who, for four months, have not looked upon each other as enemies, the King thinks there is not a moment to be lost, in publishing his orders to prolong the suspension of arms, which expires, as you know, Sir, the 22d instant; I send you the draught of this ordinance, and I can receive your answer by the messenger, whom I dispatch to you, before the time expires. I therefore beg you will let me know, if this draught is conformable to the Queen's sentiments, and her Britannic Majesty will issue a like proclamation. According to form, it should be preceded by an agreement signed in the name, and by virtue of power from the King and from the Queen of Great Britain. If the Duke d'Aumont were now in London, he might sign this agreement with you, or I might sign it with Mr. Prior if he were here; but the ordinance and the proclamation will suppose the thing done, and the essential point is to make known their Majesties' pleasure, with respect to the continuation of the suspension.

The suspension may also be signed at Utrecht by the Plenipotentiaries. The King sends orders accordingly, and the business will be soon concluded, if the Queen's Ministers have similar orders. However, to avoid every inconvenience at sea, the King sends intelligence to all the ports, that the suspension will be prolonged: and these, Sir, are all the precautions that can be taken.

The Duke d'Aumont has taken leave of the King; he leaves Paris on Thursday next, and as he hopes the Queen will send one of her yachts to Calais, he will dispatch a messenger to inform you exactly of the day he may be there.

The King was very sorry to hear the unhappy accident of the Duke of Hamilton: his successor to this Court is named, but with no certainty. His Majesty is fully persuaded, that a person, appointed by the Queen, will have nothing more at heart than to strengthen that good understanding and union which an advantageous peace will soon restore. I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

From

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 273.)

S I R,

Versailles, December 14th, 1712.

BY the exprefs messenger I received the honour of your letter of the 26th November, O.S. with two copies of the act, signed by you, to prolong the suspension of arms for four months. I have signed it by the King's order, and his Majesty has commanded me to return you one of the duplicates, as I do, by the same messenger. The publication will serve for a ratification, therefore I think it useless for either side to execute one. I also hope that a good peace will soon do away the necessity of such acts, and as the Earl of Strafford is arrived at Utrecht, there is no reason to doubt we shall immediately see the effect of his declarations, made by order of the Queen.

According to your desire, I send you copies of the renunciations made to the Crown of Spain by the Dukes of Berry and Orleans, the draughts were drawn at Madrid, and as they had been communicated to Lord Lexington, I supposed he had sent them to her Britannic Majesty. You will find the terms not less strong than those in the King of Spain's renunciation, and the same expressions used in the places where they were necessary.

The only act now remaining to be done, is the King's letters-patent to the Parliaments, to register the King of Spain's renunciations. As it seems necessary to wait till the arrival of some person in behalf of the Queen of Great Britain, before these letters are expedited, I will also send you a copy of it, as soon as Mr. Prior arrives, if, as I believe, he precedes the Duke of Shrewsbury.

The Queen could not have selected an ambassador more distinguished by his rank and personal qualities, and the nomination is so much more agreeable to the King, as his Majesty knows he has a perfect knowledge of every thing that has occurred, during the course of the negotiation, the final settlement of which I hope we shall soon see. I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

To

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 225.)

SIR,

Whitehall, December 13th, 1712.

THE Abbé Gaultier's messenger having brought me the act to prolong the suspension of arms, it has been, by order of the Queen in council, and without loss of time, published, according to our forms.

Matthew must now be with you; the Duke of Shrewsbury embarks to-morrow, and the Abbé Gaultier does himself the honour to write to you, upon two articles touched upon in one of your letters, and which require an explanation; so that I should be very unreasonable if I abused your patience by the length of this letter.

The Marquis de Montéleon fully answers the character you gave me of him; he seems disposed to avoid delays, which, in the present case, would be dangerous. I hope in few days to receive letters from the Queen's Commissary, sent some time ago to explain with the Spanish Ministers, certain articles respecting commerce; and I am persuaded, that in two conferences with the Duke of Shrewsbury, you will remove all other obstacles to the conclusion of the peace; which, thank God! are very few, and not of the last importance.

I did myself the honour to write to the Duke de St. Pierre, and I flatter myself you are convinced I will omit nothing, on my part, to advance his interest; it is sufficient to know he is related to you, to secure my devotion to his service.

I own, Sir, I am entirely of opinion with you, in regard to the Abbé Gaultier, who is very fortunate in having you for his patron.

Amid the joy which every honest man must feel at the approach of peace, I have the mortification to think, that I shall rarely have a pretence to write to you; yet do not forget me, Sir, but preserve a portion of friendship for a man, who has the highest esteem and friendship for you, and who will be all his life, &c.

B.

To

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 227.)

S I R,

Whitehall, December 16th, O.S. 1712.

AS Baron de Walef persists in his design of going to France, I could not excuse myself writing to you this letter, to assure you he is an officer of distinguished merit. I will add, he is much my friend, and I should be rejoiced to learn he was fortunate enough to have you for his protector. I am, &c.

B.

Note. (Page 233.)

Monsieur de Torcy's Answer. The Duke of Loraine has represented to the Queen of Great Britain,

THE King will give the Duke of Loraine the places of which his Majesty was put into possession, for convenience, and for the security of the frontier of his kingdom, during the present war.

His Majesty will execute those conditions of the treaty of Ryswick, which relate to that Prince.

He may present memorials to the King, by his Envoy here, or to his Majesty's Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht.

THAT he has a right to re-enter the districts of Loraine, which France has, for her private convenience, occupied, on account of the war. Also,

To recover possession of the places which should be restored to him pursuant to the treaty of Ryswic.

The particulars of the Duke of Loraine's pretensions ought to be settled at the general conferences at Utrecht; her Majesty of Great Britain expects, in the mean time, that the Plenipotentiaries of his Most Christian Majesty, are provided with orders favourable to the just demands of this Prince, which she has reason to hope from the equity and generosity of his Most Christian Majesty..

Verfailles, Dec. 28th, 1712.

PROPO-

PROPOSITION. (Page 238.)

THAT the island of Cape Breton shall remain to his Majesty, with liberty to fortify it. That the province of Acadia, with all the rights and prerogatives enjoyed by the French, shall be ceded by his Majesty to the Queen of Great Britain, together with the island of Newfoundland, and the adjacent islands. It being well understood, that the French shall have and preserve the right of fishing, and of drying their fish, on the coast of the said island of Newfoundland, from Cape Bonavista, proceeding northwards, to Point Rich.

That all the islands situated at the entrance of the river, and in the Gulph of St. Laurence, shall belong to the King.

Note. (Page 240.)

Answer to Mr. Prior's Memorial, received 29th December, 1712.

Mr. Prior's Memorial, 21st December, 1712.

NATIONS in friendship are treated in France as to duties on merchandises imported, as the King's subjects; it is not so in England, whose subjects are treated differently from strangers.

It is proposed to treat the French in England, as the English are treated in France; this basis is good, it supposes an equality necessary to restore a commerce, that has been interrupted between the two nations since 1667. But the consequence does not answer the principle laid down: it is desired that the English may enjoy in France, the
tariff

(1) IT is proposed that the English, with respect to duties in France, should be treated as *amicissima gens*, and that the French should be treated in England in the same manner.

(2) For this purpose, all general prohibitions against the entry of merchandise shall be annulled on both sides; and as the English, by this means, will enjoy the tariff of 1664 as the Dutch now do, we will endeavour to settle and regulate affairs of commerce as soon as the Parliament meets, so that the conditions be equal on both sides.

(3.) That

tariff of 1664, that all prohibitions and decrees, which have laid duties different to that tariff, be annulled; and for an advantage so great and so certain, endeavours shall be made to adjust affairs of commerce, as soon as the Parliament meets, so as the conditions be equal on both sides. If this article were granted, the English have all they demanded, and yet we must wait for the discussion of the Parliament of England, which we have no reason to suppose is very favourable to the commerce of France.

The negotiation commenced upon the basis that we should agree for all the productions, whether of nature or art, which constitute the trade respectively between France and England; and upon the duties they should pay, upon being imported into either kingdom, as fairly as can be, as the welfare of the commerce of the two countries demands, which supposes a discussion in detail, carried on by statements that have been made, and might be communicated, if England would do the same.

The suppression of the duty of 50 per ton will create no difficulty at the same time as the duty of five shillings is suppressed in England.

Observe,

(3) That the impost of 50 per ton, on English ships carrying merchandise to France, as also that of five shillings sterling laid on French

Observe, English ships must not trade from port to port in this kingdom.

By article 13, in the project of the treaty of commerce, given in by the English Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht, the same liberty was demanded for the sale of tobacco; but, upon the observations made on that project, the Plenipotentiaries of England having given in a second project, they altered the 11th article of this last, and it was agreed that in France, with respect to tobacco, the English should be treated in the same manner as the King's subjects; from which we supposed this difficulty removed.

This article is already granted.

The same thing had been demanded by the first project, article 17, but from the observations then made, it was not mentioned in the second, therefore this difficulty was supposed to be at an end.

If another discussion is required, we may review the remarks on the first project, which are too long for insertion in this memorial.

VOL. III.

French ships in England, be entirely taken off and abolished on both sides.

(4) As tobacco is farmed in France, and the English merchants cannot sell it to other than the Commissaries appointed by the Farmers of tobacco, which does great injury to the English, entirely preventing all freedom of commerce in this respect, it is expected that the French will devise the means to soften this inequality in commerce.

(5) That the subjects of her Britannic Majesty who are now settled, or may hereafter settle in France, shall be exempt from the right d'Aubaine, and be suffered to dispose of their effects by will, gift, or otherwise.

(6) As it is usual in England for French merchants who bring thither merchandise, after having made their report at the Custom-house of the cargo in their vessels, in case there are more bales or tons of merchandise than were reported, they are permitted to make a supplementary report, generally called a post-entry; it is required that English merchants carrying merchandise

P p

to

According to the tariff of 1664, packages, wrappers, cases, &c. are deducted upon drugs and grocery only.

With regard to duties for merchandise wasted or spoiled, it is settled in a friendly manner, between the King's farmers and the merchants: there has never been any regulation with respect to this.

A general and customary article in commercial treaties.

to France, do enjoy a like privilege.

(7) It is also required, that the drawback granted for merchandise spoiled, packages, &c. called tare, should also be granted upon an equal foot by both parties.

(8) And, in general, that the subjects of Great Britain and those of France, may enjoy a reciprocal freedom with respect to trade, and that both parties do endeavour to open and facilitate it by the best means that can be used.

Note. (Page 246.)

Statement of the Wares and Productions of the Kingdom.

Almonds.	Olives.
Anchovies.	Crayons.
Filberts.	Goat-skins.
Walnut-tree logs.	Stone in squares.
Ditto planks and tables.	Mill-stones.
Pitch.	Plaster-of-Paris.
Large capers.	Feathers for beds.
Small ditto.	Pears.
Chestnuts.	Apples in forts.
Thistles.	Hair-powder.
Hungary-water.	Plums in forts.
Brandy.	Dried raisins.
Figs.	Rosin.
Galipots.	Saffron.
Oil of olives.	Soap.
Jet.	Salt.
Cork.	Wine, red & white.
Honey.	Vinegar.

Statement

Statement of the Manufactures of France.

Cloth of fine wool, for women, of all colours.

Ditto ordinary.

Cloth of fine wool, for men, of all colours.

Ditto ordinary.

Buckrams.

Gold and silver buttons, fine wire, of the large sort.

Ditto of the small sort.

Gold and silver buttons, wire-drawn on silk, sorted half large and half small.

Buttons of fine silver, or silver gilt, massive and plated on wood-moulds.

Buttons of the small sort.

Brocades, ground of gold and fine silver.

Brocades, upon damask taffety or satin, ornaments and flowers raised of fine silver.

Brocades, of gold and fine silver ground, glazed, without any flowers or ornaments of coloured silk.

Brocades, strong, of pure silk ground, satin damask or taffetas, worked with coloured flowers, no gold or silver.

Brocades, smaller, of pure silk, satin damask or taffety ground, with flowers of different colours.

Serges, wide and narrow.

Playing cards.

Beaver hats.

Woollen hats of all sorts.

White laces in sorts, fashion of Puy d'Auvergne and Normandy, and other provinces.

Druggets shorn, estamines, ras de maroc de barrière de castor, Mount Cayards and Dauphiny, of wool only, and mixed with silk.

Druggets and plushes, of gold or fine silk thread, of hemp, of flax, and of all colours.

Fine gold thread.

Ditto silver.

Galloons, fringes, and laces of sham gold, threaded on silk.

Ditto of sham silver.

Simple gauzes, plain or striped.

Ditto with flowers, worked with silk or wool.

Damassien gauzes.

Jet, in different pieces of work.

French glasses, Venice pattern.

Small Wares.

Bridles, buckles and buttons, of copper or metal, plain and worked, gilt or not gilt; buttons of silk, or silk and hair, or hair only; curry-combs; stirrups; leather gloves of all sorts, for man or woman, plain or ornamented, of leather or taffety; pins; needles; *étuis* for the pocket; patch and snuff boxes, of ivory, horn, or wood, plain, engraved, carved, or ornamented with gold or silk; swords, mounted, with guard and handle of any metal; spectacles of all sorts; whips; works of copper, engraved or embossed, gilt or not gilt; combs, of shell, ivory, horn, or wood; steel works, polished or gilt, and all sorts of other small pieces of workmanship for the pocket.

Mohair of gold and silver.

Ditto of silk.

Gold and fine silver, threaded on silk, of all qualities.

Paper.

Perukes, white, chefnut, and black.

Cutlery, fine, as knives, scissars, razors, surgeons' and watchmakers' instruments, and other works.

Silk ribbons, with flowers or stripes of gold and silver, from the narrowest to the breadth of four inches.

Ribbons, wove with gold or fine silver, from the breadth of one inch to four.

Serges of Nismes and Uzez.

Taffetas, plain, striped, clouded, shot, changing to all colours.

Tapestry, Bergame, or druggets of Rouen, of thread, wool, or silk.

Linens, white, fine, and strong, from Normandy and Laval.

Linens, common, of Normandy; cloths of thread and cotton, in squares; royal cloths for sails.

Cloths, white, called quintens, or narrow bretagnes.

Cloths, white, of Morlaix, called narrow ecrues.

Ditto ditto wide ditto.

Cloths, white, worked for napkins; flight cloths *de cholet*.

Unbleached hempen cloths, of one-third, three-fourths, one-half, and ell wide, one with the other.

Cambrics.

Glasses, and all sorts of glass-work, except glasses of the Venice fashion.

Note.

Note. (Page 252.)

(9) *Copy of the Duke of Lorraine's letter.*

December 16th, 1712.

I AM very sorry, Sir, that your illness prevents my seeing you, but I hope in a little time you will be well. Sautez yesterday gave me an account of what you said to him concerning the business I had entrusted to him; and, that you may give a still better account, I send you the inclosed short memorial; by the bad manner in which it is drawn up, you know it to be my style. I hope the King will find I had reason to do as I did, unless I had entangled myself in an awkward business; on that account, I beg you to recollect you told me, Sir, the King wished that affair should be managed by the general consent of the allies, for the greater security; that the steps taken by me at the Court of Vienna were only *officium boni viri*, and therefore it was not just to implicate me in the discussion. I flatter myself the King will assent to my reasons, and will be convinced that my application was solely to please his Majesty, and to make known my respectful attachment to him. I should be miserable, Sir, if I were mistaken, or I should give offence, when it was out of my power to act otherwise. I am, &c.

(10) M. D'AUDFRET will recollect, that when he came here from the King his master, to signify to me his Majesty's wishes, that I should exert my good offices with the allies, to procure the necessary security within my dominions for the Chevalier St. George, against the incursions of the troops of the same allies, I told him, at that time, I thought, that as, by my advice, the Queen of Great Britain had already granted her passport to the said Chevalier, he had only to demand one of the Emperor and of the Dutch; and I added, it was proper to begin by asking one of the Emperor, because I was persuaded, that if he granted it, the Dutch would be less difficult, and proposing first to Holland an affair of such consequence, which must pass through the resolutions of all the provinces, would be productive of delay, and probably great difficulty.

Monsieur d'Audifret appeared to approve of my plan, and I lost not a moment in writing to my Envoy at Vi-

enna, whose illness has prevented my having an answer sooner.

Upon my application, the Emperor sent me a copy of the pass he intended to give, with a letter, of which I subjoin the translation; in both these Monsieur d'Audifret will find passages under-marked, to which I beg his attention when he gives an account to the Court.

(II) *Translation of the Emperor's letter to his Royal Highness.*

YOUR Resident, Valentini, has, on your part, humbly requested, that the necessary orders may be given, to the end that the person called the Chevalier St. George, who is to remove to your dominions, may remain there secure from my troops and those of the allies; and though I am happy to show, on all occasions, my readiness to grant your requests, and though I know full well the reasons why you could not refuse the intimation given you upon this affair, and though I myself lament the unfortunate situation of the Chevalier, yet from circumstances worthy of reflection, and which may be easily imagined, it is difficult to grant him the passport required in its full extent; therefore I can only give it conditionally, *that you take great care that a proper use be made of it, without prejudice to the common cause; failing in which, you will be responsible to me, to the empire, and to the rest of the allies.*

Upon perusal of the draught of the passport and of the letter, I hope, from the account Monsieur d'Audifret will give, the King will be convinced of the care I have taken to succeed in what his Majesty desired of me; will observe my inclination to please his Majesty, not only on this occasion, but in all others that have occurred, and may occur in future; but the two marked passages in the pass, and in the Emperor's letter, have obliged me, and I lost no time, to remonstrate to his Imperial Majesty, that I and my dominions being neutral, I could not be clogged with such conditions; that I looked upon them as terms of the Chancery; that I hoped the Emperor would grant me the favour, without these restrictions, which I could by no means admit. I expect an answer in eight or ten days at latest, unless the relapse of my Envoy retards it; and as soon as it comes to hand, Monsieur d'Audifret shall be informed of it.

I hope the King will find that I have acted properly upon

upon this occasion, and that being, as I said, neutral, I could not in any shape take such engagements upon me: I flatter myself that in this juncture, as in all others, his Majesty will see that my sole attention is to show my attachment to him, and my very sincere wishes to give him pleasure in every thing dependent upon me.

If, during this interval, it should be thought proper for me to stir on the side of Holland, I will do it with pleasure; and if Monsieur d'Audifret wishes to stop for orders from Court, I will not proceed till they arrive; but if he thinks I can, in the mean time, make some progress, he has only to inform me, and I shall always be ready to execute what he may advise upon this subject.

Note. (Page 262.)

(4) *Article proposed about the tariff of 1664, received from Monsieur de Torcy, 7th January, 1713.*

THE articles, respecting the liberty, which the subjects of both nations shall have, and ought to have, to trade, &c. shall be expressed in general terms; and if, in the discussion of them, any exception is made, it shall be settled, without loss of time, either with the Duke of Shrewsbury, Mr. Prior, or, at Utrecht, with the Plenipotentiaries of France and Great Britain.

Whenever an act of the British Parliament is passed, to reduce the duties on wares of the growth and manufacture of France, to the same proportion as those laid in France upon the wares of the growth and manufacture of Great Britain, according to the tariff of 1664, the subjects of Great Britain shall then enjoy the said tariff in France.

Note. (Page 262.)

(5) *Received from Monsieur de Torcy, 7th January, 1712-13.*

MEMORIAL FOR MR. PRIOR.

BY article 4, in the plan of the treaty of peace with Great Britain, sent to Utrecht, in the month of August last, it is said, *Ille qui Regis Magnæ Britanniae titulum assumpsit, &c.*

At present the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain wish to alter that expression, which they agreed to, and to substitute the following terms, *qui Regis Magnæ Britannia*

nomen usurpavit, or sibi arrogavit, terms which add no force to the engagement the King takes upon himself by this article, in regard to the succession, as settled by Parliament.

Upon article 8, it has always been observed, that it is necessary to distinguish two different kinds of sluices at Dunkirk—one serving to cleanse the harbour, the other to give vent to the waters which otherwise would drown the country.

There is no difficulty about destroying the first, as being part of the fortifications; but as to the others, the destruction of them would be the ruin of the surrounding country, without producing any advantage to England: Lord Bolingbroke informed himself of the truth of this, in passing through Dunkirk, on his return to London; and on his report to the Queen of Great Britain, we doubt not the difficulty, in this article, is already removed.

The 9th article of the plan imports, that the King shall give up to the Queen of Great Britain, Hudson's Bay, &c. in the manner they are now possessed by the King and the French.

The Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain insist that it shall be expressed, that France shall *restore, not only what has been taken from the English, but, also all that England has ever possessed in that quarter*. This new clause differs from the plan, and would be a source of perpetual difficulties; but to avoid them, the King has sent to his Plenipotentiaries the same map of North America, as had been furnished by the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain. His Majesty has caused to be drawn upon this map, a line which describes the boundaries, in such a manner as he has reason to believe they may easily agree this point on both sides.

If, however, there should be any obstacle which the Plenipotentiaries cannot remove, the decision must be referred to Commissaries, to be named for the adjustment of the boundaries in America. The same article says, that the King's subjects shall be at liberty to depart from their lands, in places ceded by his Majesty to the Crown of Great Britain, to carry with them their goods and moveables, and to go wherever they please, by sea or by land. The Plenipotentiaries of France have also reserved to them, the right of disposing of their immoveable effects in the space of three years.

The

The Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain dispute the term of three years, and wish to confine it to one. They also pretend to make a distinction between places ceded and places which they call restored. They agree to let the French have the term of one year, to dispose of their immovables in places ceded, but they contend they ought not to have the same liberty in places restored. Under the name of places ceded, they include Acadia, and the island of St. Christopher. Under the name of places restored, Hudson's Bay and Strait, and the Island of Newfoundland. To remove this difficulty, the term may be fixed to two years, or eighteen months, and the French, established there, may have an equal liberty of disposing of their immovables within that term, as well in places yielded, as in places restored.

Upon article 10, the Plenipotentiaries of France demand, that the English, obtaining the right to prefer their complaints of loss sustained in Hudson's Bay before the Commissioners, the King's subjects should have the same right with regard to the business at Nevis and Gambia.

This mutuality, which the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain have not yet been willing to grant, seems just: the English shall have the same liberty to represent their losses last year at Montserrat, and to solicit a reparation, which shall be granted to them.

Article 11 of the plan imported, that the French could not, in future, fish upon the coasts of Acadia, and the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain wish now to extend this prohibition. They contend that the French should not fish within 30 leagues to the south-east of that province, and ten leagues to the north-west. If this pretension were admitted, the French could not fish even in the gulph of St. Lawrence. The proposal communicated to Mr. Prior, will do away this difficulty, as it is there remarked that Acadia is ceded, with all the rights and prerogatives which the French enjoyed. It were useless to enter into a more particular discussion.

Upon article 12, the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain have proposed to limit the time of fishery for the French, from the beginning of April, to the 20th of September; but as this new restriction is impracticable, contrary to general custom and the good understanding we wish to establish between the two nations, we are persuaded the Queen of Great Britain will disapprove of it.

From

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 272.)

Versailles, December 29th, 1712.

UNDER the outward semblance of Matthew, you have sent us, my Lord, the legitimate son of M. Buys; nothing is wanting but for him to fill his glass like his father. He is otherwise as much a Dutchman, and I think much more obstinate. We have been forced to yield and conform to his wishes; still he was not contented; but I hope you will, and that all the obstacles that retarded the signing of the peace, are about to be removed; I must own I expect bitter reproaches from the King's Plenipotentiaries, who strongly disputed with yours, those articles which Matthew has gained without much trouble, and perhaps with less reason. In one word, I believe you will be more pleased with his Excellency than I am, and I hope the Duke of Shrewsbury, whom I expect every moment, will find affairs far advanced. I doubt not they are also in a forward state at Utrecht, and your allies become more reasonable.

I must now leave the Duke d'Aumont to talk with you on these subjects; but I beg you, my Lord, not to give me a dismissal; I assure you, that whenever I am reduced to write to you only letters of compliment, I should like better to importune you with even them, than to think you have forgotten me.

Before I recur to this last resource, you give me, my Lord, fresh occasion to thank you for the good offices you still continue to the Duke of St. Pierre. There is certainly no person to whom I like to be under obligation so much as to you; my satisfaction will be complete, if ever I find the means of proving to you, how much I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

Matthew told me, he was dispatching a messenger for England, so you will hear from him in what state we have arranged the rest of the difficulties which retarded the conclusion of the treaty.

In the name of God, Sir, order your Plenipotentiaries to be less excellent grammarians. Ours, who also understand the force of Latin expressions, are out of patience when they see difficulties, which have been long adjusted, started again, and the difference between cession and restitution,

stitution, and the meaning of those terms. In truth, Sir, such questions ought not to be the amusement of honourable men. They are, at best, excusable only with those to whom we may apply *amantium iræ*. Finish these disputes, which, if they continue longer, will only profit our enemies.

You let the Duke d'Aumont tire himself at Boulogne; since his arrival there, his impatience to proceed to England is, I am persuaded, much increased; I should be the same, were I in his place, that I might assure you, I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

To Madame de Feriole. (Page 286.)

Whitehall, January 7th, O.S. 1712.

IN truth, Madam, your letters make me blush, and instead of being obliged to me for the little services I have been able to do the Abbé de Tencin, I am unhappy at not being able to make a better return for your goodness towards me. Please to preserve me a place in your remembrance; rely upon it, that by the goodness of my heart, I will try to supply the defects in my understanding and that, despairing of success on the score of affection, I will exert myself to gain upon that of esteem.

I am, Madam, and shall ever be, with infinite respect,
B.

To the Marchioness de Croissy. (Page 286.)

Whitehall, January 7th, O.S. 1712.

I DECLARE, Madam, I blush with shame, when I think of the trouble you have taken to procure me the two prettiest toys I ever saw. The workman was wrong when he supposed a snuff-box of wood did not suit my taste. When the inside is valuable, nothing charms me more than a simplicity in the outside, and I know many people who would make a much better appearance in the world, if they bore a closer resemblance to my snuff-box.

Madam, I must not trouble you unnecessarily, it is time for me to conclude my letter, begging you to believe that I am, &c.

B.

I take the liberty to send you honey-water, Barbadoes-water, and Spanish wine, which I hope will answer better than the cyder,

To

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 289.)

SIR,

Whitehall, January 7th, O.S. 1712-13.

THE Duke d'Aumont's messenger must not depart without a line from me. I have too long enjoyed the sweets of your correspondence ever to consent to be deprived of it; and of all the advantages which God, or nature, or fortune, have conferred on the Duke of Shrewsbury, I envy him nothing more than his situation, which enables him to see you every day, and to enjoy your conversation every moment.

I hope, Sir, the disputes between the Plenipotentiaries are now, at least, finished, as it appears by my letters from Utrecht, that they began to approximate on the article of the treaty of commerce, which was the principal subject of their differences, and, perhaps, has never been too well understood on either side.

There are certain things which derive their consequence purely from being disputed; the difference between the expressions *cedendis* and *restituendis*, between *assumpsit* and *usurpavit*, or *arrogavit*, is not very essential: the mind was, however, not a little heated in the dispute, and it required some trouble to convince certain people that the matter was not worthy of attention.

Since I knew the Duke of Shrewsbury had landed in France, my mind has been easy; in the name of God, finish with him, and when you have so done, write a joint-letter to the Plenipotentiaries at Utrecht. I imagine the points we had to discuss with the Court of Spain were concluded through her Majesty's condescension. Thus, Sir, the Queen may open the Session by stating the negotiation with France and Spain to be concluded.

I do not know if there are still not some among the Dutch Ministers, who flatter themselves they have it still in their power to perplex affairs by the intrigues they continue to carry on with the faction in our two Houses. I own I am not afraid of them, and I build my confidence, not only on the firmness exhibited here, but on the integrity and moderation experienced on your side.

It is time to conclude both the negociation and my letter, assuring you, I am, &c.

B.

From

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 325.)

Marli, January 18th, 1713, N.S.

FINISH, my Lord, all remaining difficulties; it really is time for us to reestablish a friendly intercourse, since both sides desire it, and their intentions are equally good.

I will not tire you with the account of disputes relating to the Newfoundland fishery, I leave that to the Duke d'Aumont and the Duke of Shrewsbury, I will only say, and that frankly, that the proposition which Matthew sends you is, according to the language of the Germans and the Dutch, our ultimatum.

Finish our quarrels; let us think of nothing but friendship; however strict it may be between our nations, you will be indebted to yourself alone for that which all who have the honour to know you, retain for you.

I think, however, I have some merit to be distinguished among them, as no one is, &c.

DE TORCY.

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 326.)

Whitehall, January 20th, O.S. 1712-13.

I PROTEST to you, Sir, that if we do not finish, it is not my fault. I wish, for a thousand reasons, a speedy conclusion to the great work of the peace; but the principal is, because I see here the public mind is beginning to be weary of the suspense.

Our disputes about Newfoundland will not be the stumbling-block, provided you do not refuse us any longer, in the treaty of commerce, the consequences of a principle which we have, for many months, looked upon as settled, and then the peace will indisputably be soon made.

It is of no use to enter into the detail of the business, which has been terribly perplexed at Utrecht. The Duke of Shrewsbury will inform you of the last offers the Queen orders him to make, to accommodate these differences; and the reasons upon which we ground them, which are certainly too substantial not to have weight with a mind so well disposed, and a heart so rightly placed as yours.

In the name of God, Sir, send back this messenger, without loss of time, with the King's consent to the propositions, which the Duke of Shrewsbury will have the honour to make to him, on the Queen's part. You will then

then enable us to triumph over those who are as much your enemies as ours. In that case, the Queen will address the two houses, whose sitting cannot be prorogued longer than the third of next month, and inform them, that the interests of Great Britain and France are entirely settled, that she is going to sign her treaty, that she has invited all her allies to do the same, and that she has declared to them her firm resolve to keep the negociation no longer open.

Agree with me, Sir, that the echo of this speech, and the addresses of the Parliament will be heard at Utrecht, and will inspire the most inveterate warrior with the love of peace. You will finish, with speed, what affairs remain to be adjusted, and you will finish them to the King's satisfaction.

But if, at the meeting of Parliament, our negociation be still open, I will not, Sir, in truth, be answerable for the consequences.

The evil-minded will have a fair game before them; and, what I consider as the height of misfortune, those who mean well, perhaps, will find themselves necessitated to follow the opinions of others.

The Earl of Oxford and your servant have, in that case, the prospect of passing their time badly enough; but I trouble myself less about that, than with the disorder I foresee in affairs in general.

You see, Sir, the pleasure I feel in writing to you hurries me on.

I will flatter myself, that the importance of the crisis in which we are, will be an excuse for the length of my letter, and that you will not think ill of that frankness, with which I naturally expose to you my fears and my hopes. I am, &c.

B.

To the Princess Ursini. (Page 344).

MADAM,

Whitehall, January 25th, O.S. 1712-13.

YOUR Highness may judge how much I am influenced by the Marquis de Montéleon, by his inspiring me with the assurance to write to you. I know how much I may depend upon the friendship that Minister has shown me; but, indeed, Madam, he never has, and never can do me a favour equal to that he has lately honoured

honoured me with, by furnishing me with an excuse for writing to your Highness and making known the sentiments of a heart perfectly devoted to your service.

Though the humble servant of Lord Lexington, I cannot help envying him the happiness of making his court, under the patronage of your Highness, to that great Queen, whose heroic virtues are the admiration of the present age, and will be that of posterity.

As the Earl of Oxford does himself the honour to write to your Highness, it will be of no use for me to enter upon an account, relating to the interest of the two Courts. I flatter myself, the Marquis de Montéleon has, during the negociation, experienced every accommodation in my power, and I venture to assure your Highness, he will always find the same.

I did not omit sending such instructions to the Queen's Plenipotentiaries, as were judged most proper to secure for your Highness, by the treaty of peace, the principality which his Catholic Majesty has granted you; and I make no doubt, the attention paid by those Ministers will be completely successful. Your Highness may be certain I shall neglect nothing that can evince the profound respect and inviolable attachment with which I am, &c.

BOLINGBROKE.

Note. (Page 354).

AS with a view to facilitate the opening and exercise of trade mutually between France and Great Britain, the two following articles were agreed upon:

First, That, in case we should not agree upon the points in dispute, relating to commerce, Commissioners shall be named on both sides, to meet in London, to examine and regulate the duties and imposts to be paid in each kingdom, and to adjust them in such a manner as to encourage and increase the trade between the two kingdoms:

Secondly, That no privilege or advantage, with respect to the trade with France, shall be granted to any foreign nation, which shall not, at the same time, be granted to the subjects of the Queen of Great Britain: in like manner, no privilege or advantage, with respect to the trade with Great Britain, shall be granted to any foreign nation,

nation, which shall not, at the same time, be granted to the subjects of his Most Christian Majesty.

In compliance with the above articles, Commissaries shall be named, to meet in London, to examine the duties and imposts which should be paid in each kingdom, and regulate them fairly between the two nations, conformable to what the most favoured foreign nation shall pay, both in France and Great Britain; so that the Commissaries having agreed (which should be in months) the King will publish, in the kingdom, and in his other dominions, the necessary decrees for the execution of what the Commissaries have agreed upon, and will remove every impediment to the trade of the Queen of Great Britain's subjects, in France: so likewise, on the part of her Britannic Majesty, all acts of parliament shall be repealed which prevented the French being treated, in Great Britain, and her other dominions, as the most favoured foreign nation.

Note. (Page 355).

The French at Utrecht.

January 20th, 1713.

AT all times, foreign manufactures were never admitted into France, otherwise than at ports particularly reserved for them, where they were searched, in the same manner as the produce of the kingdom. Those of England were imported by Normandy, Brittany, and Guienne; and if any were found bad, they were confiscated.

The confiscation was repealed in 1606, by the treaty of Paris, February 14, and it was stipulated, that bad wares should be sent back, without export duty. This arrangement was confirmed in 1655, by the treaty of Westminster, and, since that time, we have continued to restrict the import of foreign merchandise to places specified, and the searching of them has been constantly practised. These are the primary laws of the kingdom, and cannot be repealed.

The English cannot be suffered to trade from port to port in France, but upon condition that the French have the like privilege in England: without this reciprocity, it cannot be granted to the English in France, nor can they ask it: for the same reason, the five shillings must be reduced

reduced to one-half, because this would be nearly the value of fifty sols, in France.

It is true, by the treaty of Ryfwick, the French granted this favour to the Dutch, without stipulating any mutuality for the French in Holland; but it was solely because the trade of Holland being carried on by canals, cannot be managed by sea from port to port; which differs much from the vessels of Great Britain: besides, the Dutch have always paid the duty in question, upon the whole tonnage of the vessel, without attending to the cargo.

With regard to the abolition of this duty, upon vessels arriving from England, or other parts of the world, at the ports of France, we consent to it; but upon condition, that it do not take place in France before it takes place in England.

As to Post Entries, &c.

THOSE who have absolutely entered the merchandise they import, cannot afterwards either increase or lessen it, upon pretence of omission, or otherwise; and the truth, or the falsehood of the entry is judged of from the first entry.

To this French merchants are subject: the English cannot, in this, be treated otherwise than his Majesty's own subjects. Innocence, it is true, should be favoured; but it is not less true, that fraud should be prevented.

The Article for appointing Consuls.

WE can find in no treaty between France and England, the appointment of Consuls, as proposed; we believe it would be prejudicial to the commerce of the two nations; for, commonly, the Consuls of the merchants secure to themselves the most profitable ventures, to the exclusion of their countrymen, notwithstanding they are prohibited. And besides, the appointments of these public characters are a charge upon trade, which ought to be avoided. So that, instead of Consuls, both parties might send a Commercial Resident to Paris, and to London, to receive the complaints of grievances that each nation may labour under, and to repair them by a representation to the Ministers of the two Crowns, and by obtaining proper orders.

Concerning Tare on Goods imported into France.

THE King's subjects, and all foreigners are bound to pay import duties on merchandise, without deduction for the weight of cases, boxes, wrappers, or barrels, except silks, and groceries. In this respect, we can neither make a new order, nor grant what is demanded; and the English shall be treated the same as the French.

As to what concerns the Tobacco-farm, in France.

THE English shall be permitted to sell their tobacco to the farmer, the same as the French merchants do. In this respect, in France, we cannot depart from the established custom.

Note. (Page 370).

Verfailles, February 7th, 1713.

TO remove the difficulty, with respect to the last words of the article, intituled, *in locum*, 9 & 10 art. *Traëtatus de Commercio*, as if, putting the case, that the Commissaries do not agree at the end of the time prescribed, we could in consequence make new demands, I understand the Queen does not pretend, by virtue of this article, to obtain any other advantage from the tariff of 1664, than those which are granted by France to the Dutch, by the approaching peace; and that the Duc d'Aumont has a right, if he judges it necessary, to demand a like explanation at London.

SHREWSBURY.

Note. (Page 395).

Extract from the Examinations of the Chevalier Affurini.

AS soon as the Chevalier Affurini was sent to the Bastille, the Marquis de Torcy instructed M. d'Argenson, by a private memorial, only for his own use, in every thing that related to this prisoner, his conduct in his journey to Holland, what he had advanced to the enemy's Ministers, and the promises they had made him, that he might question him upon all the points in the memorial.

The

The first examination he underwent was on the 7th September, 1712. He gave him an historical account of his birth, his education, some journeys to Italy, one to Paris, where he remained a year. It appears, he went away in 1708, to return home.

He supposes, that his father may have received, a short time after, instructions to go to England, on the King's business, and he observes, that he set out with him to go there; that his father, upon his arrival, gave eight or ten pounds to the Spanish Secretary of Count Gallas, to draw from him his master's secrets, to send them to the Marquis de Torcy. That he also made large presents to Monsieur de Netterville, whom he calls the confident of the Earl of Oxford, to the Chevalier Penn, and to Mr. Plunket; but did not know what those presents consisted of. That Monsieur Netterville informed his father of every thing, knowing him to have the King's orders. That the Chevalier Giraldi, who was reported to be a partizan of France, was far otherwise, and that they had discovered, by the secretary of Count Gallas, that he was pensioned by the Archduke, and attached to the Whigs. That Monsieur Grimani was at heart a Frenchman. That to create a quarrel between the Chevalier Giraldi and Count Gallas, they insinuated to the latter, by means of Monsieur Primoli, his first secretary, that the former betrayed his party. That Assurini, the father, entered into a false confidence with Count Gallas, to embroil him with the government of England.

The Chevalier Assurini says, at that time, he obtained an intimacy with the Duchess of Shrewsbury, Miss Malloste, my Lady Waldegrave, the Duchess of Buckingham, my Lady Butler, my Lady Hoglitorit, and many other ladies of quality, to report to him what was there said. That he had great hopes of marrying a daughter of my Lord Suffex. That he had waited for a favourable opportunity to go to England, to conclude this match, but that all his hopes vanished upon his imprisonment. That he learned from Monsieur Primoli, that a false Tory, who lives in St. James's Park, in a house surrounded with iron rails, had told Count Gallas, that his father and he were sent by the Court of France, and that Count reported it to my Lord Oxford. That Count Gallas having proposed to him to reveal his father's secrets, he pretend-

ed to consent, gave him an Italian cypher, which he had still by him, but that his design was to say nothing but what should suit the King's interest. That after nine months' stay in England, they were forced to depart, by an order from Court, and, returning to France, they continued there, until his father having set off for Italy, he, for his part, went to Holland; and that they received, at Paris, about 6000 livres, in bills of exchange, upon Italy. That in September, 1711, while in London, Count Gallas made him a present of a ring, which he sold, *a few days after*, for 3400 livres.

Second Examination, September 20, 1712.

MONSIEUR Affurini, on his second examination, says, that his father and he received, at Paris, only 1400 livres, in Italian bills of exchange; and that he had received, for himself, 3400 livres, arising from the value of the ring he had left in England; and that his father had sold at Paris the remainder of his plate, and for some jewels, which he had sold in London, he received 1500 guineas. To the questions put to him respecting his journey to Holland, and his proceedings there, he answered, that being the subject of a neutral Prince, he thought himself at liberty: that the Marquis de Torcy having ordered him to get ready to go to Utrecht, to introduce Mr. Plunket there, and had afterwards altered his plan, he had been so much vexed because he was not employed, and because the Abbé Gaultier was preferred to him, that he resolved to seek his fortune; that he repaired to Utrecht, intending to go from thence to England, as he had written to my Lords Oxford, Buckingham, and Bolingbroke, and to the Chevalier Penn; that on his arrival at Utrecht, he only saw M. Mesnager, who gave him a cold reception, and having called upon M. Primoli, known as the Archduke's emissary, he proposed to him to serve that Prince, and to leave the King's service, in which he seemed discontented; that he promised him great advantages, among others, a public character, and a pension in the Mantuan, representing to him that that Prince, as master of Italy, could do his family either much good or much harm; that he might even give him something at Naples or Milan. That he agreed to go with him to the Hague, and that M. Primoli introduced him to Count Sinzendorf, who
received

received him in a favourable manner, and returned his visit; that he dined that day with that minister, and Pensionary Heinsius coming in, they all three had a conference. The Count repeated to him what M. Primoli had told him, the advantages he might gain in the service of the Archduke, and what he had to fear by joining with the opposite party: Pensionary Heinsius made the same observations; that he gave no positive answer to these proposals, and required that his father should not be informed of them, because he was attached to France; that he continued five or six days at the Hague, without farther conference with these ministers; that he returned to Utrecht, where he saw all the foreign ministers, except his Majesty's; and returning to the Hague, had a second conference with the same persons; that they repeated what had been said at the first interview; that he remained at the Hague eight or ten days, and being in want of money, M. Primoli lent him 150 florins, and M. de la Martiniere 23 louis-d'ors. That upon his return to Utrecht, he saw M. Mesnager, who received him favourably, and presented him to the Marquis d'Huxelles and to the Abbé Polignac, who invited him to their table, and proposed to him to go upon the King's service to England, which offer he accepted; that he agreed to go and receive his instructions at Court, and that they gave him 21 pistoles to assist him on his journey.

Third Examination, September 21, 1712.

HE gives an account of his journey, and assures us he had received no letters since his arrival at Paris; that he had not informed Count Sinzendorf, or Pensionary Heinsius, or M. Primoli, of his departure; that, in order to show Count Sinzendorf he was not in want of money, he produced several counterfeit bills of exchange; that from Utrecht he wrote to Count Gallas, and told him, that he was intimately connected with two of the Marquis de Torey's secretaries, who would reveal to him the secrets of France, and that he should be able to communicate them to him; that his only object in this scheme was to deceive that minister, and the better to recommend himself, his information being absolutely the work of his own imagination; that he had not spoken on the subject to Count Sinzendorf, nor to the Pensionary; that Count Gallas had replied in general

terms; and had not explained himself with respect to the recompence he was to have, but that while he was in England, he promised him a barony in the Mantuan, which he supposes to be that of St. Archange, confiscated on de Bague; that he informed Count Gallas of the design to send him from Paris to Utrecht, and the change that had taken place in that respect. In his luggage were found several packets, labeled "dose of the Count de Palma's powder," and he says this is a purgative powder; there are also some other powders, which have not been tried, among others the powder of sympathy. He assures us, he never gave a memorial to Count Sinzendorf, nor to the Dutch minister, that he only wrote to the former from Utrecht to thank him for the assurance of his esteem, and to signify to him he should be well satisfied with his conduct if he were engaged in the service of the Archduke; that he had resisted Count Gallas's importunities to declare openly for the Archduke in Italy and at Rome; that he had only spoken of the King's affairs, in general terms, with Count Sinzendorf and the Pensionary, telling them they were in a ruined state, on account of the want of agreement among his Majesty's ministers, and that in so saying, he had his own personal interest in view; that the two conferences he had with them had only lasted a quarter of an hour each. That at last, disgusted at not being employed, and receiving neither reward nor pension, though his father had made over to him his right to all the rewards which he thought he had merited, had determined him to proceed as he had done; that at the time of these two conferences, he did not know their intention to propose to him to return to England in the King's service, and that he has never imparted any thing confidentially to those ministers since the overtures made to him by his Majesty's ministers.

Account of what has been written with respect to M. Affurini, and of his Letters from his Prison.

February 5th, 1713.

COUNT Affurini left Paris in the month of May, 1712, on his return to Italy, and after passing some time at Faenza, he repaired to Rome, in the August following. As he had no business in that city, and his expences there would certainly exceed his means, it was
matter

matter of surprise to find him continuing there so long, and from that time he began to be suspected. His son's treachery was known at Rome the beginning of September; the father then became universally suspected, and his conduct was carefully attended to; it was known that he complained severely to his friends, that his services in France were not sufficiently rewarded, and that he talked in such a manner, as to induce a belief that he had entered into some secret engagements with the King's enemies; it was then resolved to secure his person, as well for the sake of explaining suspicions so well founded, as to discover more easily through him the intrigues of his son, with whom he was probably an accomplice.

It was proposed to him to go to Longon, to see the place, and to give an account of the state in which he found it, but he seemed to distrust the intentions of the ministers, in whom he should have implicitly confided, if his conscience had not reproached him; and he did not immediately accept this commission. He left Rome in October, and it appears by a letter he wrote from his prison, to a person named Albanese, his intimate friend, that they had consulted whether he should go to Longon or not, and though at last he determined to go, he was always afraid he should be detained.

As soon as it was known at Rome that his person was secured, the Pope was applied to, to seize his papers; his Holiness gave orders for that purpose; but whether Assurini had secreted them before he left Rome, or his friends, informed of the Pope's intentions, had removed every thing of consequence, nothing was found but a few letters, of small importance. It has been since known that Albanese had said, *that Assurini's papers were already with the Marquis de Prie, when it was intended to seize them, that he had been privately informed of the orders given by the Pope, and that they were not so imprudent as to suffer a surprise.* All the letters to many of his friends from prison have been detained. He discovers throughout a mind miserably affected for having suffered himself to be laid hold of, and persuaded he shall never recover his liberty if he did not use extraordinary means, such as bribing his keepers, or inducing the Pope to demand him as his subject. It is true, he notices to his son, of whose detention he was ignorant, and to several friends, to apply to the ministers of France and Spain to obtain

his liberty, but he appears to rely very little on the goodness of his cause, or on their representations, and thinks it were better to address the Pope, his sovereign, or to endeavour to effect his escape by stratagem. He breathes nothing but vengeance when he gains his liberty, and he recommends to his son to take warning from his misfortune, and never to trust any person in future.

He thought he had gained over the valet-de-chambre of the governor of Longon, and entrusted him with his letters, conceiving they would be more safe through his means. Two of them evidently prove his connections with the enemy. They are addressed to *Count Polydor*, under cover to a person who was to deliver them. Assurini observes to him, that if he had not been detained at Longon, he should have visited him on his return to Faenza, to offer him his services in favour of *Signor Alexander*. He begs him to give directions to the Consuls at Leghorn and Porto Feraio, who are under his orders, to contrive to send to Longon a boat with expert rowers, hoping the valet-de-chambre would let them come close to the place where he is confined, and that they should escape together. He seems to have no doubt that *Count Polydor* will interest himself in his escape: he remarks, nevertheless, that when he gets to him, he will show him that his deliverance will not be useless, having wherewithal to reward such important services; and begs him to procure the command of a troop of horse for the valet-de-chambre, who seemed to wish to be in the service of *Signor Alexander*. Instead of Assurini, he signs himself Don Diego de Villamajor. It is evident the name of *Signor Alexander* can intend nothing else but the Archduke, and that of *Count Polydor* one of his Ministers, who can procure a troop of horse, and can command the German Consuls in Italy: and what confirms this conjecture is, that Assurini, when he gave the two letters to the valet-de-chambre, said they were addressed to the person who had the principal sway in Italy, and to whom the valet-de-chambre would wish him to write, supposing the valet to be a partizan of the Archduke. We, therefore, have reason to imagine that *Count Polydor* must be either the Marquis de Prie or the Duke d'Uceda. He knew the latter particularly while he was connected with Cardinal de Janson, and he might know the other by means of Albanese.

Note.

Note. (Page 408.)

*Memorial concerted with Monsieur de Torcy, 19th
January, 1713.*

THE inhabitants of Hudson's Bay, subjects of the Queen of Great Britain, who have been dispossessed of their lands by France, in time of peace, shall be entirely, and immediately after the ratification of the treaty; restored to the possession of their said lands; and such proprietors shall also have a just and reasonable satisfaction for the losses they have suffered, with respect to their goods, movables, and effects; which losses shall be settled by the judgment of Commissaries, to be named for this purpose, and sworn to do justice to the parties interested.

Note. (Page 409.)

THE Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain had hitherto made a distinction between places ceded by the King to the Queen of Great Britain, and places which they denominated restored. Under the name of places restored, they included Hudson's Bay and Straits, and the island of Newfoundland. They agreed to allow to the French, settled in places ceded, the liberty to sell their immovable effects, but insisted that the same liberty ought not to be allowed in places restored, upon a plea that such effects were taken from the English, who had a right to be restored to them. The Plenipotentiaries now make no distinction between places ceded and places restored, though the same expression remains in article 14. They only leave the King's subjects at equal liberty to depart from both, if they please, in the space of a year, with their goods and movables. According to conditions agreed upon, it should be stipulated that the French settlers in Acadia, or in the island of St. Christopher, shall have the liberty to depart, *to sell*, or to carry elsewhere, all their movable effects, if they please, and to sell their immovables. With regard to places restored in Hudson's Bay and Straits, the English shall recover possession of the immovables of which they were dispossessed, provided they prove to the Commissaries that such effects belonged to their fathers or to themselves.

With

With respect to the island of Newfoundland, it has been agreed that the French be permitted to sell their houses in Placentia, and the surrounding new-cleared lands, because Placentia was built by them, and the English were never in possession of these effects.

The term to be allowed to the French to sell their effects, ought to be eighteen months, as they would find a difficulty in disposing of their property within so short a term as a year.

Note. (Page 410.)

(Received from Monsieur de Torcy, and sent to Lord Bolingbroke, 29th December, 1712.)

Proposition concerted with Mr. Prior.

THAT the island of Cape Breton shall remain to the King, with liberty to fortify it: that the province of Acadia, with all its rights and prerogatives, which the French have enjoyed, shall be ceded by his Majesty to the Queen of Great Britain, with the island of Newfoundland, and the islands adjacent; it being well understood, that the French shall have and keep the power to fish and dry their cod on the coasts of the said island of Newfoundland, from Cape Bonavista northwards to Point Riche: that all the islands at the entrance of the river, and in the gulf of St. Lawrence, shall belong to the King.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 446.)

SIR,

Versailles, February 7th, 1713, N.S.

I HAVE had great pleasure in burning a letter I had the honour to write to you the day before yesterday: I entreated you to finish a negociation which was lingering; but, thank God! you have brought it to a conclusion; and though we were forced to yield to Matthew's vehemence, I do not grudge him a victory that has settled the peace between us. Let it be immediately signed, to silence the false reasoners, who are very numerous in all countries.

The Queen will divest those in Holland of all credit, when she determines to explain herself in a becoming manner, and to prescribe a very short term for her allies to sign with her, if her Britannic Majesty will condescend still to wait for them; but in truth time is very precious, and when both parties are agreed, it seems to me
improper

improper to retard a blessing in consideration of those whose only aim was to prevent it.

Though the peace reunites the two nations, I assure you, my Lord, it cannot augment my desire to merit the continuance of the honour of your friendship, and to make known to you upon all occasions, how much I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 447.)

Whitehall, February 17th, O.S. 1712-13.

I BELIEVE, Sir, the present crisis, and the importance of the business now on hand, will be an excuse for troubling you with a letter from me, and for adding, of my own accord, something to what the Duke of Shrewsbury will say to you as from the Queen.

I consider the peace between Great Britain and France as settled, since it is certain that the differences which remain undecided in the 14th article, respecting the *bona immobilia*, and in the 12th, respecting the thirty leagues, will not retard the conclusion of it; if, then, the Queen's allies persist in their disinclination to treat, and if, when they treat, they continue to insist upon such demands as they have hitherto made, we have nothing to do but to sign a separate peace, leaving to them a term to accept the King's plan, pursuant to the Queen's former promise. But, Sir, you see they are coming to, and the difference between what your Ministers propose, and what the others demand, is not sufficiently considerable to authorize us to say they remain still in the wrong, they are obstinate, and we must abandon them.

The Queen has deferred, as long as she could, prescribing to her allies; she wished even to clear the way for his Most Christian Majesty's Ministers to gain upon those minds, rendered more tractable by the events of the last campaign. But the season advances; perhaps we should consider it as too far advanced, did we not depend upon your inclination to make a reasonable peace, and not to avail yourselves of every little advantage for the continuance of the war. We must then either prevent the opening of the campaign, by the conclusion of the peace, or immediately prepare to treat sword in hand; the first is infinitely preferable to the last; for this purpose, I have just dispatched to the Duke of Shrewsbury her Majesty's last sentiments upon the articles which still remain unsettled at Utrecht,

Utrecht. If the King thinks proper to concur with the Queen, these points, and those which have already been granted by the Plenipotentiaries of France, will constitute the general plan, which the Queen and the King will jointly offer to the parties interested.

If the allies accept this plan, the general peace is secure; if they do not accept it, that of her Majesty will be signed, as soon as your Ministers themselves desire. I cannot prevail upon myself even to suppose that this plan can be rejected, since it contains all the facility her Majesty is able to give, and since in this case she would be obliged to speak to her Parliament of the success of the negociation as uncertain. You see, Sir, what advantage that would give to the ill-disposed every where, what embarrassment it would occasion here, and what disorder in the rest of Europe.

You will now have the whole plan of the peace before you; you need fear no ulterior demands; and the King may in one moment finish what would take months, not to say years, to regulate at the Congress.

Our Parliament will not meet till the 3d of next month, O.S. so that we have time enough to receive your answers, and to take our measures which depend upon your resolves, for the Queen is enabled to give whatever turn she wishes to our affairs.

Probably all your advices do not agree with what I have the honour to state, yet I believe I am sufficiently informed of what passes here, to be able to answer to you for the conduct of our Court, and the temper of our people. But it is certain I write to you naturally what I know, and what I think; I have never deceived you, and I never will deceive you, and no one is more than I am, &c.

BOLINGBROKE.

The Queen's Plenipotentiaries inform me that they have begun to speak of the interest of the Duke of St. Pierre, and hope to be of service to him.

Note. (Page 466.)

[As this Memorial was drawn up in pursuance of, and contains, the Queen's orders and instructions, sent to the Duke of Shrewsbury by Lord Bolingbroke, the 17th and 18th February,

February, and is besides nearly a transcript of them, a translation of it was judged unnecessary.]

Note. (Page 470.)

Memorial of the Marquis de Torcy, concerning the bona immobilia.

IT is common in treaties, even in the capitulations of towns, to suffer the inhabitants of those places, which change masters, to depart, to transport elsewhere their effects, to dispose of their goods, and to sell them, whether movable or immovable; the treaty of peace between the King and the Queen of Great Britain, having for its principal object the establishment of a perfect union between the two nations, ought not to contain, with respect to the French, any clauses more rigorous than those of ordinary treaties.

A desire, however, has manifested itself, of debarring the inhabitants of places which the King gives up to England the same liberty as is granted in all treaties, and of which a particular instance occurs in the 11th article of the treaty of Breda. The King of England, Charles II, when he ceded Acadia to France, reserved, for such inhabitants of the country as wished to depart, the entire liberty of selling and disposing of, as they pleased, all their goods, movable and immovable, and generally of all their effects. The King requires nothing more at this day than what was done in 1667, with regard to England; and his Majesty's proposal is so much the more just, as it appears inequitable for either the King or the Queen of Great Britain to interfere with the substance of individuals, and to deprive any person, without cause, of his lawful possessions. This truth is so evident, that the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain at Utrecht always make a distinction between places that should be ceded and those that should be restored by France; they comprised the island of St. Christopher and Acadia under the name of places ceded, and for this reason they allowed to the French settled in both the liberty to sell their immovables. The Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain refused this liberty in places restored, that is to say, in Hudson's Bay and the island of Newfoundland.

The King consented to give to Commissaries, to be named after the peace, authority to give possession to the
English

English who should prove they were proprietors, or the heirs of proprietors, of effects in Hudson's Bay. As to those in Newfoundland, his Majesty insisted that the town of Placentia, having been built by the French, the houses in that town, and the new-cleared lands round about it, were immovables, which had never belonged to the English, consequently the inhabitants ought to have the entire liberty of disposing of them. This power, reserved in all treaties, does no prejudice to the sovereignty of the Princes to whom the places are ceded, it only secures the interest of the individuals; and as it is but just to give those, who have done no harm, the free disposal of their effects, the King, convinced of her Britannic Majesty's equitable intentions, submits this question to the Queen's decision. His Majesty, however, will not permit such a difficulty to retard the conclusion of the peace; he orders his Plenipotentiaries to sign it, and to let article 14 remain as drawn up by the Plenipotentiaries of Great Britain, reckoning, that if the Queen wishes to alter it, and to have it drawn agreeable to the 11th article of the treaty of Breda, the alteration will be made before the treaty is ratified.

Article 11, of the treaty of Breda.

If some of the inhabitants of the country called Acadia prefer being, in future, subject to the King of England, they shall have the liberty to depart during the space of a year, computed from the day on which that country shall be given up, and to sell, alienate their funds, lands, slaves, and, in general, all their goods, movable and immovable, or to dispose of them otherwise, at their own discretion; and those who shall have contracted with them, shall be held and bound by his Most Christian Majesty to accomplish and execute their agreements: that if they like better to carry away with them their ready money, movables, utensils, and slaves, and, in general, all their movable effects, they have full power so to do.

Note. (Page 472.)

THE States-General having demanded Poperingue and Bailleul, as belonging to Ipres, the Duke of Shrewsbury, pursuant to the Queen's orders, and the Marquis de Torcy, in obedience to those of his Most Christian Majesty, agree
that

that Bailleul remain to France, and that Poperingue be given up in favour of the Dutch.

Note. (Page 482.)

HAVING laboured daily with the Plenipotentiaries of France, to draw up the articles of the treaty of peace between his Most Christian Majesty and his Royal Highness, we have met with essential difficulties from them, which we did not expect, and had no reason so to do.

First, They refuse to insert in the treaty, that his Royal Highness may take possession of Vigevinasco, in case, between this time and the peace, his Imperial Majesty does not give his Royal Highness actual possession of the equivalent.

Secondly, They constantly refuse to acknowledge the right of the House of Savoy, immediately after that of the House of Austria, to the succession to those dominions of the Spanish monarchy, which will fall, by the peace, to the share of the Emperor.

Thirdly, They insist, with perseverance, that his Royal Highness cannot fortify in the vallies and places which the Most Christian King offers to give in exchange for Barcelonette, which the King demands; and that his Royal Highness shall be suffered to fortify only Exilles and Fennestrelles, and the valley of Pragelas.

With respect to the first point, that from repeated assurances from her Majesty's goodness to his Royal Highness, and from the manner in which her Majesty always explained herself to France, the cessions intended by the treaty of 1703, between his Imperial Majesty and his Royal Highness, ought, at the peace, to be carried into full and entire effect, as is evident from the treaty of alliance between the Queen and his Royal Highness: you know it has been, and is now, solely dependent on the Emperor to grant the equivalent for Vigevinasco, in a manner very advantageous to him, by accepting the proposal of the Marquisate of Final, and giving it up to his Royal Highness.

You easily understand, that the cessions implied in the treaty of 1703 would not have their full and entire effect at the peace, if that, after the period between this time and the peace, the Emperor should have refused all the proposals, so advantageous to him, to procure an equivalent, he should not be bound to give up even Vigevinasco;

nasco; and his Royal Highness being again sent in search of an equivalent undefined, would not succeed in the execution of the treaty within the time prescribed by the treaty itself, and the Court of Vienna would compass their object, the peace, without executing the treaty.

Upon the second point, you will have the goodness, my Lord, to call to mind, that the succession of the House of Savoy, immediately after that of Austria, to the states of the Spanish monarchy, which, by the approaching peace, will remain with the Emperor, has always been considered by the Queen as the most essential point, in justice due to the treaty of alliance between his Royal Highness and her Majesty, and to the precautions necessary to perpetuate the peace and the balance of Europe; so likewise in her treaty, her Majesty has judged it proper, of her own accord, to insist, and in the course of this negociation has had the goodness to assure his Royal Highness, through us, that in the treaties of peace this right of succession should be supported and acknowledged.

It is in consequence of these sentiments and assurances of the Queen, that I, Count Mellerede, among the points which I had the honour to send you, my Lord, and in the article of guaranty, in which, in the treaty of peace, the Most Christian King was to join with her Majesty, remarked the guaranty for the right of succession, and the demand appeared reasonable to the Lords of the Council.

The Plenipotentiaries of France say they cannot acknowledge the will of Philip IV, which is contrary to, and destructive of, that of Charles II. This difficulty is immediately removed by the offer we make, to be satisfied, if, in the treaty of peace, no mention be made of the said will of Philip IV; but that it be only expressed, that the House of Savoy shall succeed immediately after that of Austria.

As to what concerns the third point, it is a fact, that when the Most Christian King proposed to the Duke of Shrewsbury, and afterwards to us here, the exchange of the valley of Barcelonette, he made the proposition without any burdensome restriction or condition, as you know, my Lord, as well as we; to impose, then, such a condition, would be something new, and circumscribing the natural rules of sovereign power, in a manner improper in a country the sovereignty of which is ceded, and especially when

when the districts demanded in exchange are superior in revenue, and have no limited power.

Add to this, we beg of you to observe, that the vallies demanded by his Royal Highness are those which the Queen judges necessary, as in fact they are, for that security of Piedmont which the Most Christian King has promised to her Majesty, and her Majesty to his Royal Highness: now the most essential point of security, especially towards a superior power, consists in the ability to fortify as occasion requires, and consequently we cannot possess that security, if so essential a point is not granted, and especially as the Alps separate these vallies from France. Fortifications only necessary for defence, can never serve for offence, and cannot give any just cause for alarm. His Royal Highness can entertain no doubt of the Queen's goodness and justice, and of her effectual support in points so essential; on this account, we humbly entreat her Majesty to have the goodness to send her orders to the Duke of Shrewsbury at Paris, and to her Plenipotentiaries here, that the articles in the treaty of peace between the Most Christian King and his Royal Highness, upon the above points, may, without farther difficulty, be allowed by the Court of France, pursuant to her Majesty's just sentiments and intentions.

This evening, or to-morrow, the Plenipotentiaries of France dispatch a messenger to their Court, with the draught of our intended treaty, and it would be of use if the Duke of Shrewsbury could receive his orders, and execute them before the French messenger is upon his return; and the more so, as the Plenipotentiaries of France have declared that the King must speak to the Duke of Shrewsbury upon these points, before they were decided. We have the honour to be,

COUNT MAFFEI.
MELLARADE.

From the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 497.)

Verfailles, March 8th, 1713.

YOU will see, Sir, by the Duke of Shrewsbury's letters, that the King did not wish to take farther advantage of the excellent dispositions made for the campaign, than to prevent the opening of it, and to conclude the peace now, rather than wait to treat sword in hand.

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His Majesty has conformed to all the Queen's wishes, so that the plan of the general peace, and that of the separate peace, being equally adjusted, nothing prevents either being signed at Utrecht without delay, as you remark to me.

Her Britannic Majesty may consequently inform her Parliament of the result of her labours for the repose of Europe, and force the evil-minded to be silent. We have no doubt here of her having them absolutely within her power, and I assure you, my Lord, there is nothing in higher credit with us, than your communications for the mutual benefit of the two nations. You have been too successful in gaining our implicit faith, for us ever to harbour a distrust of what comes from you, and if you ever were inclined to deceive us, you might have long enjoyed that pleasure, before we should have suspected you in the slightest degree: I am, in truth, far from such ideas, and I require of you once more, on this occasion of the peace, which I consider as concluded, the continuance of the same confidence, and of the same proofs of your friendship, with which you have hitherto honoured me.

I am persuaded her Majesty will be contented with the King's general assent to every thing she demanded, but those unfortunate individuals, who have effects in the places ceded or restored, will scarce be so with the law you subject them to by Article 14, if her Britannic Majesty, when informed of the general clauses in treaties, does not, according to her known equity, decide upon this point; as much is expected from her justice.

I refer to what I had the honour to say upon this subject to the Duke of Shrewsbury, and to what he writes upon it; and I hope that a treaty which is to constitute the happiness of the two nations, the direction and conclusion of which are attributable to your care, will not contain the least appearance of injustice.

My Lord, I have a lively sense of the attention you show to the interest of the Duke de St. Pierre, and I assure you, I want no additional motives to strengthen my attachment to you.

I am, &c.

DE TORCY.

To the Marquis de Torcy. (Page 500.)

Whitehall, March 23d, O.S. 1712-13.

I MUST avail myself of this opportunity, Sir, to assure you of my very humble respects, and to tell that my letters from Utrecht of the 20th, 21st, and 25th, have almost driven me to desperation; those of the 28th have afforded me a trifle of consolation, as I learn from them that the general peace will be made at the same time; the conditions which Count Sinzendorf demands, before he signs for the Emperor, being of a nature not to retard the negotiation.

The Duke d'Aumont has been informed, from time to time, of the pretences made use of, from one day to another, to prevent the signing the treaties between Great Britain and France; he likewise knows the answers I returned, and the positive and repeated orders I sent by the Queen's orders; so that I need not detail them, as they must be already known to you.

The Duke of Shrewsbury will communicate to you the orders the Queen has given, and of which she will enforce the observance, respecting the *bona immobilia* of the King's subjects. His Majesty shall be fully satisfied upon this head, and the Queen will have much pleasure in taking this new occasion of showing how much she has at heart the interest of France. She doubts not the King will, on his side, have an eye of compassion towards those miserable beings who are now suffering in the galleys; such a deed would be worthy of his great soul, worthy of his piety; it would be the most essential proof that his Majesty can give of his consideration for her, and will silence those vile declaimers who endeavour to blacken the work of the peace, and the characters of all those who have had any share in it. I am, &c.

B.

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